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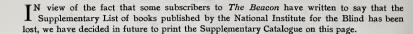
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

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EDITORIAL



HE festive Christmas season is over, and again it is our pleasant duty to wish our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year. A year ago we dwelt upon the fact that Peace was once more on earth. But although it has been vouch-safed to us to spend the last three Christmases without the horror of bloodshed being constantly in our thoughts, the times are so full

of unrest that it seems a mere mockery to talk of Peace. The festival of Christmas came therefore as a time of rest from the upheaval around us-a few days when most of us must have felt that it was legitimate to give ourselves up to the peaceful enjoyment of home comforts and to try to give our minds a brief respite from the consideration of social problems which it is everybody's duty to try to understand and, if possible, to help to ameliorate. Now we are at work again in this work-a-day world, where the times are truly "out of joint," where party strife is rampant, after having been laid to rest during the war, when one aim and one ideal bound together one people.

In a far happier frame of mind we turn to thoughts of our own community. In the blind world the last year has been one of activity and progress. The spring and summer months saw the passing of the various stages of the eagerly-awaited Blind Persons Bill which, after much discussion and criticism and many amendments, came into active existence as the Blind Persons Act in September of this year. Many of its provisions—the granting of a Government pension to blind persons over the age of fifty, the obligations

laid upon Councils to provide and maintain workshops, homes and hostels for the blind in each area, etc., etc.-will have come as a God-send to many blind folk. The placing on the authorities of the responsibilities for effecting improvements in education and industrial training is also a boon the results of which will be apparent in the course of the next few months. There should soon be available also a complete register of all societies and agencies for the blind in England and Wales registered under the Blind Persons Act, and the public will have the satisfaction of knowing that such agencies are all of a bona fide character. These ends have all been secured as a result of the passing of the Blind Persons Act.

Of immense practical value is the appointment by the Ministry of Health of a Committee to investigate and report on the causes of blindness, in order to secure measures which might be taken for the prevention of blindness. The causes of blindness have as yet been little explored in our country. and the work in store for the recentlyappointed committee is one which may well be undertaken in a hopeful spirit—one which may, moreover, result in the rescue of many thousands of human beings from the handicap of blindness. This is indeed a hopeful thought with which to start the New Year, and with this thought in mind we wish our readers all Happiness and Prosperity.

Reference was made in *The Times* of November 19th to the agitation which the Actors' Association is carrying on against the use of blinding lights in film studios. The attention of the association has been called to at least three cases in which members have suffered acutely by the use of these

lights, and the association decided to refer the matter to the Ministry of Health, in the hope that some definite step might be taken in the matter.

The association has now been informed by the Ministry that the whole question has been referred to the Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness which is now sitting.

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MONTREAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

T will be of interest to our readers to hear that Mr. P. E. Layton, whose name is so well-known in the blind world in America, has been elected President of the Montreal Association for the Blind.

Mr. Layton was born in 1859, and he lost his sight through an accident in London at the age of 13. He attended St. George's Blind School, now the Royal School for the Blind, at Leatherhead, where he studied music and piano tuning. In 1880 he was appointed music teacher in a ladies' school in Norfolk, holding at the same time a position as organist in a small church. Acting on the advice of Dr. Armitage he entered the Royal Normal College in 1883, whence he graduated with a diploma in 1887. Being unable to obtain a post as organist, he went to Canada in 1887, where he started work as a piano tuner, eventually founding a small piano business which has grown to be one of the largest in the Dominion.

At the Annual Meeting of the Montreal Association for the Blind, held in October last, it was stated that the property and stock and bonds owned by the Association were worth half a million dollars, whereas twelve and a half years ago the blind of the province of Quebec did not own one brick. When Mr. Layton came to Canada in 1887 he found that there was no school for the English-speaking blind in the province and no homes or workshops for the adult blind in the whole of the Dominion.

In 1908 Mr. Layton started the Montreal Association for the Blind. Monthly meetings of a social nature and business discussions were held in the private houses of the members. Then a library was formed, and in December 1908 a workshop for the blind was opened. The school for the blind was inaugurated in 1912. More workshops and a boarding home for blind men followed. The chief industry carried on in the workshops is corn-broom making, wages varying from 7.25 to 17 dollars per week. A blind salesman is paid 25 dollars per week. Until last August Mr. Layton was the director of work at the Institution.

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LEICESTER INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND

OOD work is being done in the City J of Leicester and the two counties of Leicester and Rutland by the local Institution for the Blind, the president of which is the Duke of Rutland. There are approximately slightly over 500 blind persons in this area. In addition to finding work for those within reach of the city in the Institution workshops, and providing other blind persons with work in their own homes, 78 persons are relieved with weekly grants of money, 320 receive gifts of coal or grocery, very many are provided by the Ladies Committee with gifts of clothing, and about £2,000 a year is expended in augmenting the earnings of those who are in work.

AT THE WHITE CITY

WHEN the King and Queen visited the International Advertising Exhibition on the 3rd of December, they spent some time at the stall of St. Dunstan's Hostel, and evinced much interest in the exhibits made by men who had lost not only their sight in the war, but also a limb. Her Majesty noted with especial pleasure the household articles and rugs that were displayed. The King made many inquiries as to the numbers in the Hostel, and as to how the inmates managed to execute their work, and expressed his great surprise that blind men could, notwithstanding their handicap, "make good" under such circumstances. Queen Alexandra and the other Royal visitors also showed their deep concern in the work. Captain Fraser, who was blinded in the war and is now head of the After-Care Department of the Hostel, was in charge of the stall.

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KINDLY note change of address of the secretary of the Deaf Blind Blessing Society from Malvern and Worcester to No. 40 Langham Street, W.1.

LEMORDANT, THE BLINDED FRENCH ARTIST AND SOLDIER



EFORE the war Lemordant was an artist—a painter of simple folk, of workmen, of peasants, of fishermen and sailors. "He paints them," said one writer, "working joyously, with strength and expliaration and interest. The y seem, these men and women, in their bright-coloured clothes and with their vivid faces, as much a part of the essential beauty of life

as white clouds racing over the blue sky on a windy day, as the amethyst water through which the women splash, bringing in the nets. They are as genuine as the yellow shore where the brilliant fishing-boats lie, as the poppies in the field and the tulips in the

home-gardens."

When war broke out Lemordant was thirty-seven. Although entitled by reason of his age to remain in the Home Defence Corps, he sought and obtained an appointment at the Front in the early days of August 1914. He fought at Charleroi and received a wound in the shoulder, winning his commission as second lieutenant, with the Staff Officer's comment: "You were born to be a soldier." His further experiences during the battle of the Marne have been narrated by Mr. Charles Le Goffic in The Touchstone:—

Lemordant was wounded in his right side, but refused to be sent to a base hospital. He could scarcely walk, but the splendid conscience of a leader of men had awakened in this idealist, . . . who but yesterday was so highly prejudiced against the military profession. He knew that in war time an officer only holds his men by his own

example and moral authority.

"An officer," he said to me, "literally must give all his existence, all his life-blood to his country; he must not spare a drop."

On the morning of October 4th, 1914, the 41st attacked near Monchy-le-Preux.... All went well at first. From time to time, whenever the ground was uneven, they rushed forward. A few unlucky ones dropped out

on the way. With the rest, Lemordant, although himself wounded in the hand, reached the enemy trench and carried it.

A second bullet grazed his right temple. A third a little while after wounded him on the top of the skull. It was then broad day, but it was northern weather, gray, cheerless, dark, uncertain.

Confused movement on the plain—on his right, frantic silhouettes which stood bolt upright, whirled about, collapsed. Another section of his company, engaged on the same side, was caught on the flank by machineguns set up in a sort of block-house behind a mound, in front of a pile of ruined huts. With the firmness of decision which never abandoned him in the most critical circumstances, Lemordant got his men together, rallied the fugitives and threw himself on the block-house. The battery of machine-guns was put out of action, but Lemordant, climbing the slope, received a bullet point blank, which went through his right knee.

This was his fourth wound of the day, and his men wished to carry him off, but he refused, feeling that he was more necessary than ever since he had no non-coms. to whom he could turn over his command. He merely had his leg set in splints, and fortified the positions on the side toward the enemy. The German counter-attack broke loose. It was launched by a whole company. Lemordant, by rigid demand, compelled his men not to fire. The charge got within twenty metres of the mound, where it gathered itself up to come over in a single mass, with the cry "Vorwärts!"

"... Rapid fire—fire at will!" roared Lemordant.

The charge vacillated, stopped. Our men leapt out of the trench to charge in turn. Lemordant, although wounded in the hand, in the forehead, on the head and in the knee, charged with them, supported by a young soldier of his section. Chance brought him

face to face with the Oberstleutnant, who commanded the counter-attack and whom he seized by the throat. Just then a fifth bullet struck him over the right eye, breaking the frontal bone. It seemed to him as though all was over, and he fell heavily to the ground.

How was he finally saved? He does not know. Wounded within the enemy's lines. left for dead, he lay there four full days without care, and for forty-eight hours he was unconscious. When he came to himself it was difficult to collect his thoughts. He did not know where he was. Around him was total darkness, and it did not pass away.

He heard the voices of the wounded who called to him. He dragged himself in their direction and asked them questions. Why did the night last so long? They answered that it was broad daylight and he understood. ". . . I had thought of everything," he said to me. "Of death, of the most horrible wounds. but not of that!"

He was carried to Cambrai, and from there stage by stage was transported to a hospital in Bavaria. Eventually his condition improved a little. He began to see. He could even draw a few lines and make out large characters. Then the idea of escape mastered him. Two unsuccessful efforts had sent him to the guard-house; on the third he was ordered to a reprisal camp; his departure was fixed for the next day. Calm and serene as ever, he desired before going to finish the series of addresses on the history of painting which he had undertaken for his fellow prisoners. He wished to run over his notes. He could no longer make them out! A halo danced in front of him, obscuring everything. He had such a sense of anguish

that he had to stop. Then by a concentration of the will he mastered himself and improvised the rest of his address in a voice in which there was only the slightest trembling. At the end of the address the battalion chief leapt to the platform and took Lemordant in his arms.

"What has happened to you?" he asked. Then, when he learned; "Ah, my poor friend, surely in your condition they cannot send you to a reprisal camp. Take courage, you shall go to France!"

The commander of the guard-house himself, feeling a sense of pity when he learned what had happened, offered to telephone to

the camp commanderandask for a cancellation of the order. Lemordant refused: he wished to owe nothing to the destroyers of his country. He started for the reprisal camp, but there his blindness classified him almost immediately among the severely wounded who were listed for exchange. Switzerland received him for a time. At last arrived the mo-



Photo: Daily Sketch Ex-St. Dunstaner as Telephone-Operator

ment when he could cross the French frontier.

He had waited for that moment with a sort of religious ecstasy. Blind, wounded in the back and side, with a broken knee, and a high fever, he hoped for a miracle, but expected one only from himself, from the power of his own will. He had asked the Red Cross nurses who had charge of him to tell him the moment when the train crossed the frontier. He would see it-see at least something belonging to it, no matter what—a hedge, a length of rail, a pebble, a tuft of grass. They did what he asked, took him to the door of the compartment, and there he exerted all his strength, all his will-power.

The frontier was left behind; he fell back

fainting—totally blind!

A BLIND LIGHTNING CALCULATOR

COME eight years ago an account was given in the Lancet of a remarkable case in which extraordinary ability in arithmetical calculation was associated with general mental inferiority, if not actual insanity. The patient was a youth of the name of Fleury, then aged eighteen, who was completely blind as a result of ophthalmia neonatorum. Partly by perseverance with the Braille method, partly by devising certain mental "tips" of his own, he had reached a stage of extraordinary facility in performing elaborate calculations. A large number of details as to his methods were given on that occasion and, striking though they were, later information about the same case provides us with still more wonderful data, a description of which by Dr. L. Lotte, of the asylum at Armentières, will be found in L'Encéphale for March, 1920. Fleury, for example, can give the square root of any number running into four figures in an average of four seconds, and the cube root of any number running into six figures in six seconds; he gave the cube root of 34,012,224 (324) in 11 seconds, and the cube root of 465,484,375 (775) in 13 seconds. These seem mere trifles, however, compared with the following: He was asked how many grains of corn there would be in any one of 64 boxes, with one in the first, two in the second, four in the third, eight in the fourth, and so on in succession. He gave the answers for the 14th (8192), for the 18th (131,072), and the 24th (8,388,608) instantaneously, and he gave the figures for the 48th box (140,737,488,355,328) in six seconds. Further, on the request to give the total in all the boxes up to and including the 64th he furnished the correct answer (18,446,734,073,709,551,615) in 45 seconds. When it is remembered that Fleury has been blind from birth and can have no visual memories, the feat becomes really impressive. In an average of 12 seconds he can divide any number, say of four figures, into its prime factors, thus: $2924 = 2^2 \times 17 \times 43$; $5564 = 2^2 \times 13 \times 107$; and so on. Instances were given in our previous annotation of his faculty of telling the day of the week on which any given date falls, and the original methods devised by himself for this were there explained. It appears now, according to Dr. Lotte, that Fleury can give the day for Easter in any year, in the Gregorian and Julian calendars respectively and simultaneously, by some scheme equally original, of which the details are not, however, supplied. Thus, in 1662 Easter fell on April 21st and March 27th respectively (2 minutes 10 seconds), in 1746. March 30th and April 10th (2 minutes 20 seconds), and for 1946 the dates are April 11th and April 17th (40 seconds). Numerous other illustrations are furnished of this altogether remarkable case, which certainly equals if it does not surpass others that have become classical. It is interesting to learn, on the authority of Dr. Lotte, that, thanks to more general recognition of Fleury's exceptional gifts, the opportunity is to be afforded him of further education and instruction, and it is quite possible he will rise to still greater heights of arithmetical attainment and of mathematical attainment in a wider sense, if he is handled by some professional exponent of these subjects. In any case, the psychological interest and importance of such a wonderful example of development of a practically isolated mental faculty warrants our giving the case greater publicity.—Lancet.

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SPECIAL TUNING TOOLS FOR VELLUM HINGEING AND BORING OUT

S OME months back two tools—the invention of the late Instructor in Repairing at the Tuning Department of the Royal Normal College—were brought to the notice of the National Institute by Mr. Guy Campbell. It was evident that these tools were likely to be of service to blind tuners, but it was felt that before they could be of maximum usefulness some alterations would be necessary.

Much care and thought, therefore, has been expended upon them by the Institute's engineering expert, with the result that several important improvements have been effected. They are nowon sale at the National Institute, the hingeing tool price 9s., and the boring-out guide 14s. The latter is supplied with a special drill (twist-bit) in the handle of which is a cutter for shaving the shank when necessary to the required size.

Further particulars regarding these tools may be had on application. H. C. W.

BRIGHTON BLIND ASYLUM

A T the Annual Meeting of the Committee of the Brighton Blinind Asylum the principal speaker was Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., Lady Leconfield, who was in the chair, introduced Sir Washington, and told those present that he was by birth a Somerset man whom blindness overtook at the age of fourteen. In spite of this great disability he had earned for himself a distinguished name, and had kindly come to give the boys a word of help and encouragement by telling them

of his own experience.

Sir Washington Ranger said he had consented, at the request of the Secretary, to do something he had never done before, and that was to speak definitely about himself, with the object of saying something of encouragement and help to the boys that might be useful to them in after life. He was born in Somerset, but came to Sussex as an invalid boy, recovering his health, although not his sight, in the Ashdown Forest district. He first turned to amusement, and became, in spite of blindness, a tolerably expert rider on horseback. His blind life really began in connection with this very school founded by Dr. Moon, and now at the age of seventy-two he was happy to find himself in touch with it again. As a youth he learned to read in the Moon type, and took up basket-making, etc., afterwards proceeding to Worcester College, where he went in for music for a time, and then read and studied for the University. Going on to Worcester College, Oxford, he had the satisfaction of taking several degrees. He then went in for the legal profession, became articled to a firm of solicitors, and afterwards started in practice for himself, and made it a success from the first. He urged that there was not one incident in his career that was not open to any boy. He said he had no great abilities, but two gifts which could be created and developed by almost anyone. He was practical, and the first thing for anyone to decide was what they were going to do in life. Then if they put their backs into it they would succeed. The other important thing was industry, and in his own case even his leisure took some form of industry. It was Dr. Moon who founded this school, and his work that opened up life for him, and it could also do so in their cases. In conclusion, Sir Washington spoke of the

great change of attitude that had taken place with regard to blindness and the blind in the course of years. In the old days blindness itself secured the interests of the blind, but in the last twenty years the movement of blind philanthropy had, from a concentration on the handicap itself to the neglect of all the faculties left, rightly devoted itself to the cultivation, education and training of those capacities. On that there had been built a sound system.

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WHY DO BLIND MEN LOOK UP?

116 Albany Street, N.W.1. December 16th, 1920.

The Editor, THE BEACON.

EAR Sir,—In the last issue of THE BEACON some interesting explanations were given as to the reason why blind people walk with their heads lifted up in so peculiar a manner. The action, I take it, is an unconscious one, and is, in my opinion, more generally adopted when the blind person is walking alone, and it is one which is under control when consciousness is awakened to its existence. I do not consider it to be a measure taken necessarily for the protection of the face, but that it is one of Nature's methods of bringing into use the other unimpaired faculties of hearing and smell for the benefit of the blind pedestrian.

The lower animals, when on the look out for danger, always erect their heads and prick their ears, and in so doing not only put the sense of hearing on the alert, but bring the nose into such a position as to enable them the more readily to scent danger from afar.

I have repeatedly noticed this attitude of the head in the case of blind dogs when running along the road. It is natural to suppose, therefore, that the human blind acts in a similar fashion, in order to enlist the services of his ears and nose to his assistance, the head being erected to such an extent as to be drawn back somewhat.

A blind man, when walking with a friend who holds his arm, does not as a rule carry his head in this position of what one might call hyper-extension, since his auditory and olfactory organs are not subjected to any undue strain.

Yours, etc.,

J. LLOYD JOHNSTONE.





RECENTLY cudgelled my recollections for any instance of a blind man among the figures of ancient Greek history. So far my searchings have been in vain. During the great wars between Greece and Persia, during the rise, preeminence and fall of the Athenian Empire, and in the careers of Alexander the Great and his father. Philip, none of the names

that rise to us from the pages of history books belong to men who have lost their sight. It may be that I have somewhere missed a page, and I stand accordingly ready and eager for correction; yet there is a sound reason for the submergence of the blind in those packed centuries of war and art and colonisation. When we recall that in Sparta the rule of infanticide held for many centuries, and that undesired children were merely exposed on the snow-mountains, we can see that a baby born blind would not long survive. Again, in Athens, even during her stateliest days, service in the Field was the law for every citizen; Socrates the philosopher, Sophocles the poet served for the summer months of every year from one end of Greece to the other; the old and incapable are left at home—they are scarcely to be considered.

But when we go from History to pure Mythology, it is a different story altogether. Readers of Milton will recall that in the beginning of the fourth book of "Paradise Lost," he speaks long and beautifully of his own blindness, and consoles himself by recalling the names of blind seers of old, who were wise by inner vision. It is startling enough to a student of folk-lore to survey this list of names. Why should the story of a blind prophet be so amazingly common in Greece? Myths do not arise out of thin air. For some reason, some very adequate reason, if we could only comprehend it, the primitive forefathers of the Greeks were interested in blindness. So much so, that strange old

stories survived of blind visionaries from all parts of Greece. There is Homer, the traditional father of poetry, Tiresias the prophet, doomed always to tell the truth to an unbelieving hearer, Phineus the king of Thrace, Œdipus the tragic king of Thebes, Thamyris and others.

Now it has been suggested that primitive folk believe strongly in the law of compensation, and balance very naturally the losses of outward vision by the gain of spiritual insight. I cannot for my part find that our forefathers had reached such a stage of philosophy, as this blindness due to disease is common enough in tropical regions, but I have so far been able to discover no instance where the sufferer from ophthalmia is held in higher respect as a counsellor by his fellow tribesmen. Why should he be? The primitive tribe that trusted happily and implicitly to the advice of its blind would soon cease to survive in the ruthless struggle for existence. No, the secret lies deeper than this. The savants who appeal to "compensation" have gripped the wrong end of the stick. It is not that all blind men are automatically wise, but that all wise men are automatically blind. To put it less crudely, there was a common belief in primitive Greece that a prophet, a divinely-inspired seer, should be afflicted with blindness. I wish very briefly to indicate three possible origins for this striking and wide-spread curiosity of folk-lore.

Firstly, we have the evidences from Ancient Egypt. Now there seems a high probability that the Egyptians employed blind men as musicians. This we gather from the figures on their sculptures and paintings, whose whole expression and pose indicate, it has been suggested, that they are intended to be studies of blind men. There is nothing new under the sun; to-day we have our blind organists – under the Pharaolis they had blind harpists. But these minstrels were organist and choir combined; they struck the chords, and they delivered the psalms. They

were by their very trade semi-religious in character, expected to be of fertile imaginations, and quite capable of improvising new songs and hymns when the old ones grew stale.

What of the Greeks? It is a certain fact that the Greeks traded and fought with Egypt from a very early date. They sacked her coast towns, they acted as her mercenaries, they were dragged thither as slaves. What more likely, then, than that a tradition of a strange race of blind bards and priests should trickle back to Europe? We know that the Greeks wove into their religion a number of Evptian elements, especially their beliefs in the Future State. It is possible enough, therefore, that exaggerated stories of blind prophets were also carried across, eagerly accepted by the listeners at home, and gradually worked up into a series of highly-coloured fairy stories.

That is my first suggestion. My other two I incline to hold over until the next issue of this magazine, always supposing its readers do not before then protest their weariness of me. This—my article I mean—is conjecture. But it is by conjecture that we mentally live. Let me say how pleased I should be to receive counter-conjectures from any reader of The Beacon, for it is by crossing and synthesising contrary hypotheses that we

gradually come to the truth.

EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND

WE learn from the Harvard Bulletin that among the innovations at the new Harvard Graduate School of Education is that of a course of lectures, with practical exercises and demonstrations, for teachers of the blind and workers with the blind and semisighted. In establishing this specialised course concerning the education of a handicapped group, the Graduate School of Education hopes both to advance the cause of service to the blind in general and also to meet the need of students who wish to prepare themselves for teaching the blind or for working for them. Hitherto there has been no special centre for that work in Boston. The lectures and demonstrations are given at times when they can most easily be attended by teachers, school nurses, public health nurses, social workers and volunteers whose interests already include work with the blind or those suffering from seriously defective vision, as well as by those who desire to train for service in this field of work. Students who desire to take the full-time "intensive" course are expected to devote their entire time to it, and will be admitted to institutions for the blind in and about Boston, for the purposes of observation and practice. The course is under the direction of an executive committee. The system of lectures arranged for the course affords a complete survey of what is being done for the blind, and many of the lecturers themselves are blind.

Some of the subjects and the speakers are as follows: "The Early History of the Education of the Blind, in Germany, Italy, France, and the United States," by Edward E. Allen, Director of the Perkins Institution; "Education of the Seeing Public," by Charles F. F. Campbell, Editor of the Outlook for the Blind; "Psychology of the Blind: Introduction and Sensory Life of the Blind; Perception; Attention and Memory," by Dr. Samuel P. Hayes, Professor of Psychology at Mount Holyoke College; "The Prevention of Blindness and Conservation of Evesight," by Miss Ida E. Ridgway, Supervisor of Work for Children, Massachusetts Division of the Blind, and Mrs. Winifred Hathaway, National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, New York City: and "Education of the Child with Seriously Defective Eyesight," with demonstrations and laboratory practice, by the same speakers; "How the Blind are Taught Music," with a demonstration at the Perkins Institution, by Edwin L. Gardiner, Instructor of Music at the Perkins Institution: "Physical Training and Athletics in Schools for the Blind," by O. H. Burritt, of the Pennsylvania Institution for Instruction of the Blind; "Sale of Merchandise Made by the Blind," by C. B. Hayes, Director of the Department of Education, Massachusetts Division of the Blind.

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A PUBLIC Lecture will be given on Tuesday, January 11th, at 8 p.m., at Mortimer Hall, 93 Mortimer Street, W.1., by Mr. Guy Campbell, F.C.T.B., F.R.G.S., on "The Work of the Royal Normal College." The chair will be taken by Major A. E. Powell, R.E. Mr. W. Wolstenholme will render pianoforte selections during the evening. Admission is free to both lectures, and there will be a collection for expenses.

KITCHENER'S WARNING

SIR GEORGE ARTHUR, in an address in French to the Anglo-French Society, at Scala House, on December 10th, revealed some minor but still highly interesting details concerning that great soldier and statesman, Earl Kitchener, The most remarkable feature of a speech which was listened to with the closest attention was the revelation of Lord Kitchener's long prevision of the war with Germany.

All Lord Kitchener's activities, said Sir

George Arthur. wereconcerned with the great idea which he conceived forty vearsbeforehis death, that the great war was inevitable. He alone foresaw its length and dimensions. and the fact that Russia would not remain in the struggle to the end. In November, 1915, he told the politicians that he was making his calculations on the certainty

that Russia would be out of the war in twelve months. This would be shown by the foreword by Maréchal Joffre to the French translation of Earl Kitchener's life, which will shortly be published in Paris, and in the preface by M. Poincaré. Earl Kitchener's prophetic views were given to General Joffre at Chantilly in November, 1915.

As far back as 1886 Lord Kitchener began to realise the prospect of a great conflict with Germany, and it was his experiences as one of the International Commission for the delimitation of the Sultan of Zanzibar's dominions that led him to form the opinion, not only that Germany would light for the hegemony of Europe, but that she would not fight fair. Then came his

career in Egypt and the Fashoda incident, which he was determined should be not only peacefully closed, but should form the basis of an entente. The South African War followed. When the end came, despite the appeals made to him by certain politicians and administrators, he insisted on such a peace as would provide a new free Constitution for South Africa and make the South Africans our friends and a willing part of the Empire.

In India he set himself to prepare the Army there for the seemingly remote struggle with Germany, and in New Zealand and Australia he organised defence schemes which

could be turned to the offensive at once in the eventuality of the Germans attacking us.

Three qualities, Sir George Arthur pointed out, marked the man-his foresight, courage, and self-sacrifice. Lord Wellingtonwas always trying to see what was on the other side of the hill: Lord Kitchener wasalwaystrying to penetrate the veil of the future, and he



[Photo: Daily Sketch H.M. THE KING INSPECTS BLINDED SOLDIERS AT CHELSEA

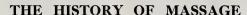
seemed to arrive at his conclusions by pure intuition. His character was never better summed up than by the Labour leaders, who said, "We can trust him; he is a straight man."

Mr. W. H. Helm was in the chair, and a large audience listened with keen interest to the address.

BLIND B.A.

A BLINDED ex-soldier, Mr. Peter S. Sumner, of 8 Norman Street, Lincoln, has gained a B.A. degree at the University of London.

He was blinded by a German bullet at's ypres in 1915, and was at St. Dunstan's hostel in 1916. He has spent the past three years in studying in London for the degree.



INTERESTING DETAILS OF ITS GROWTH THROUGH THE AGES



HE history of Massage dates far back into the past. Its range of usefulness has steadily increased from age to age, and has long since extended into every special and general branch of medicine, so that he who would keep pace with its developments must be well informed in all departments of the healing art.

The word "massage" is derived from a Greek word signifying "to knead or handle," an Arabic word meaning "to press softly," and a Sanscrit word, "to strike, to press, to condense." The term is now generally accepted by European and American physicians to denote a group of procedures which are best done with the hands, such as friction, kneading, manipulating, rolling and friction of the external tissues of the body in a variety of ways, either with a curative, palliative, or hygienic object in view. The origin of massage has been lost in the night of Time. History informs us that it has been practised from the most ancient times amongst savages and civilised nations in some form of rubbing, kneading, or mixed movements. Its popularity in all the ages is accounted for by the fact that almost everyone, when suddenly seized with a violent pain, instinctively and involuntarily attempts to relieve it by pressure or rubbing of the affected part, usually with the result that the morbid and over-excited action of the nerves is subdued and blood stasis and effusion prevented.

Eminent men have recorded their appreciation of the art of massage—physicians and philosophers, poets and historians, have sung its praises, from the days of Homer down to those of Dr. Weir Mitchell. Homer, about 1000 B.C., in the Odyssey, tells us that beautiful women "rubbed and anointed warworn heroes to rest and refresh them." Massage is known to have been employed by the Chinese as far back as 3000 B.C., and the Swedish Gymnastic system instituted by Peter Ling is derived from the book of

Cong-Fou, the bonze of Tao-Se. Hippocrates describes and enjoins the use of manipulation. especially in the case of stiff joints, and his sayings on the subject embodied the wisdom of the past, and presaged the developments of the future to a greater extent than most ancient or modern writers have shown evidence of understanding. "The physician," he says, " must be experienced in many things, but assuredly also in rubbing, for things that have the same name have not always the same effects, for rubbing can bind a joint that is too loose and loosen a joint that is too rigid." And again, "Rubbing can bind and loosen and make flesh and cause parts to waste. Hard rubbing binds, soft rubbing much rubbing causes parts to loosens: waste, hard rubbing makes them grow." The teaching of Hippocrates was followed by other Greek physicians. Oribasius gives an account of the application of friction with the bare hands, which exactly corresponds with the modern practice of massage.

Among the old Greeks and Romans massage in some primitive form or another was extensively patronised by people of widely different classes—from the patricians, the wealthy and the learned, down to poor, decrepit old slaves; and for the most diverse purposes, with some as a means of hastening tedious convalescence, and with others as a luxury in conjunction with the baths, and with others again to render their tissues supple and enduring preparatory to undergoing severe tests of strength, so that strains and ruptures would be less likely to occur.

Massage was used by the gladiators after their combats, and this was sometimes performed by medical practitioners, sometimes by priests, and sometimes by slaves. We read that Galen, who lived A.D. 130, and was physician to the School of Gladiators at Pergamos, as a preparation for the exercises ordered the bodies of the combatants to be rubbed until they were red and then anointed. In India, under the name "shampoo" (tshampua), the same process has formed part of

the native system of medicine from time immemorial; professional masseurs were employed there by Alexander the Great in 327 B.C.

Among the Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, and later the Turks, massage came to be a part of the ordinary procedure of the bath without any special therapeutic intention, and the usage has survived until to-day; but that mode of application was no doubt a refinement of civilised life. Medical rubbing is older and more elementary than bathing, as we see by its employment by savages. Celsus, a Roman physician, at the beginning of the Christian era advised that friction should be used several times a day in the sun, and found that "chronic pains in the head are relieved by rubbing the head itself," and that "a paralysed limb is strengthened by being rubbed." And before his day the writings of Plato abounded with references to friction. According to this writer, his teacher, Socrates, esteems oil as only less necessary to human life than wheat and barley, referring to its use in the way of friction, "which often does allay pain in a remarkable manner, but taken internally it has no such effect." Cicero said that he considered he owed as much of his health to his anointer as to his physician.

And thus throughout the ages we find men of note-men who have "left their footprints on the sands of time"-recording their appreciation of the healing art, until in 1575 we find Ambrose Paré describing "gentle, medium, and vigorous friction," and the effects of such, and recommending that in dislocation, joints should be "moved about this way and that," in order to resolve the effused fluids so as to facilitate reduction. According to Weiss, the therapeutic use of massage was revived in Europe by Hieronymous Fabrisius ab Aquapendente (1537-1619). who applied it to stiff joints and other similar conditions. Paracelsus, in his De Medecina Ægyptiorum (1591), gives a description of methodical massage as practised by the Egyptians quite on modern lines. Thereafter it appears to have been adopted here and there by individual practitioners, and various references are made to it, especially by French writers. The word "massage" occurs in an essay written by Pierre Adolphe Piorry (1794-1879), for a large encyclopædia which appeared in 1818, but in all probability it was used before.

Two hundred years ago the French used

massage extensively. Then it is heard of among the Scandinavians and Germans, by whom it was scientifically worked out. Mr. Grosvenor, a surgeon at Oxford in the early part of 1800, became famous by his success in curing stiff joints by friction. About the same time, or later, Mr. Balfour, of Edinburgh. treated rheumatism, gout, sprains, and other ailments by rubbing, percussion, and compression. In 1813 the Royal Central Institute was established at Stockholm, and Peter Henry Ling introduced his system. He was not the originator of the Swedish movements. but he systematised them. A book published by Estradere in 1863 attracted much attention, but it remained for Dr. Mezger, of Amsterdam, to revive massage and to put it on a scientific basis; he practised it in 1860. and some years later was brought into prominence by his cure of the then Danish Crown Prince, who had suffered from a chronic joint affection. The modern refinements are chiefly owing to him. At the same time its application by Dr. Weir Mitchell to hysterical and other nervous conditions, in conjunction with his "rest cure," has done much to make it known.

Many other names might be mentioned in connection with the science of massage,—many books have been written on the subject, both in this country and abroad. We think that what has been written above will suffice to show how it has been handed down from the very earliest times, and that it is by no means, as some people erroneously declare, a "new treatment."

Massage by no means invariably effects a cure, but it has proved to be a good remedy in many cases where other treatment was followed by negative results. It is now more used as a remedial agent than has ever been the case before.

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THE following verse is the contribution of a blind gentleman. The lines were suggested to him on hearing two children singing on top of a tomb-stone in St. John's Churchyard, Wolverhampton:—

Touched by the spirit of Joy and Hope
Merrily the children sang,
Unmindful of the dead beneath them laid.
So we, forgetting self and buried hopes,
May sing of sunny days
To dwellers in the shade.

A. W.



T is with deep regret that we have to announce the death, in his eightieth year, of Mr. Edwin Norris, whose name will be familiar to many of our readers as the Editor of the Braille Magazine, Channels of Blessing. Mr. Norris was born in a Wiltshire village, nor far from Salisbury. His father was a general shopkeeper and a Wesleyan preacher, and very often the son used to take services and give addresses. It was in the autumn of 1863 that a curious sensation in his eyes caused him to cease reading, and from that day both sight and hearing gradually diminished. Mr. Norris left his native village in 1871, and became a commissioned traveller for a packet tea company, after which he became a superintendent of tea-packing in a small country depôt.

This work failing, he was obliged to sell newspapers at a stand in the streets. The exposure to all weathers proved most injurious to both sight and hearing, and he also met with several accidents whilst at work. After a severe illness he was sent to a Home for the Blind at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, where he remained for some years, and it was whilst he was there that he conceived the idea of what ultimately proved to be his life's work. It had seemed to him for some time that there was a need for a religious magazine for the blind of an undenominational character, to be circulated free, in order that the very poor might derive benefit. Having no means of his own, he started a small handwritten paper, consisting of devotional reading matter and poetry. The cost of paper and postage was defrayed by means of contributions from a few friends. Mr. Norris and a few others executed copies of this paper, which was sent to all who cared to read it. This was in 1897, and soon the demand became so great that, funds having generously been supplied, the little pamphlet which bore the name of Lamp of Truth and Love was issued in October 1899 as a small stereotyped magazine, entitled Channels of Blessings. From then until the present day the size and circulation of the magazine have steadily increased, and it is still circulated gratis amongst all who cannot afford to subscribe. The magazine is printed

at the National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street.

With Mr. Norris in his work was Miss I. Brookfield, who edits the poetry and is president of the prayer-union in connection with the magazine.

The last years of Mr. Norris' life were devoted wholeheartedly to the work of this magazine. His labours were given unstintingly and gratuitously, and his death will be much regretted by his many readers and friends.

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IN THE NEAR EAST

THE Philadelphia Record of September 15th gives the following account of the trachoma situation in the Near East:—

"Blindness is no less prevalent in the Levantthanit was in Biblicaldays. Trachoma is responsible for most of the sightless men, women and children who wander through the streets of Cairo, Jerusalem, Damascus, Smyrna and Constantinople. Throughout Armenia, Anatolia and Syria trachoma has been the malady which has given the American Committee for Relief in the Near East more trouble than all others combined. It rages in the orphanages, where little Armenians, Greeks, Jews and Turks have been gathered by philanthropic organisations which are endeavouring to nurse war-torn Turkev back to normal health.

"In an effort to check the ravages of trachoma and save healthy children from infection, the American Committee for Relief in the Near East is establishing an eye hospital in Constantinople, where all the trachomatous children from the various orphanages in the city will be isolated and given the best possible treatment for the disease. The Turkish Government has placed a large hospital, with many cottages, at the disposal of the Americans rent free, and it will be staffed chiefly by Americans under the direction of Dr. Blanche Norton, an American relief doctor who has just recovered from trachoma, which she contracted while treating Greek orphans in Anatolia.

"The Constantinople eye hospital is designed as a centre from which a general educational and preventive campaign against trachoma may be launched."

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OF all things that we waste, Time is the most precious.

Theophrastus.

A SUCCESSFUL CAREER

THE following account of a blind clergyman's successful career will doubtless be of interest to our readers:—

The Rev. John Swinnerton was born in Dawley, Shropshire, in the year 1877. At the age of eighteen months he contracted oph-

thalmia and lost the sight of both eyes, with the exception of a faint glimmer of light, which disappeared when he was fourteen years of age. He was educated, first at the School for the Blind, Clifton, Bristol. and subsequently at the College for the Higher Education of Blind Boys. Worcester, where he was awarded a Gardner's Scholarship of £60 per annum. A Musical Scholarship of £30 per annum was also assigned to him, and he held both scholarships until the year 1898. when he matriculated at Oxford. In 1901 he graduated in Third Class Theology, and was ordained Deacon, whilst he was ordained a Priest

the following year. In 1910 he came to the vicarage of Tolleshunt Major, in Witham, Essex, where he still resides. The parish is small, but very scattered, and affords the Vicar leisure for other than purely parochial work. He therefore devoted some time to the study of motor engineering, and purchased a motor cycle, which he is able to drive with the help of a boy guide, being the holder of a driver's licence.

In 1914 Mr. Swinnerton became much interested in the Boy Scout movement, and

obtained a warrant as a B.P. Scout Master for his district. He has helped to train over 100 boys of his parish. Being interested in the study of voice training, Mr. Swinnerton has offered a home to several orphan boys of the neighbourhood, who are being trained as choristers, boy scouts and motor engineers, whilst they at the same time receive a good general higher grade education. This is a work of charity, and its success

after three years' experience is its own reward.

Mr. Swinnerton is very proud at being the possessor of a prize for cricket awarded to totally blind players at the Worcester College for the Blind.

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A BLIND CHAMPION

NOVEL and **1** interesting walking competition took place on December 11th, in Regent's Park, where a number of blind ex-service men from St. Dunstan's raced round the Outer Circle of the park, a distance of nearly three miles. The winner, H. Northgreaves, completed the circuit in 29m, 10s. 0000



(Photo: Alfieri Picture Service BLIND COMPETITIONS IN WALKING COMPETITION

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY

The following have been added to

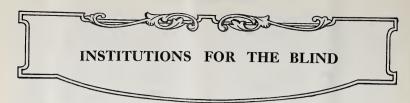
the Massage Library :-

Anterior Poliomyelitis, the place of Muscle-Re-education in the Treatment of, by Chas. Mackay, M.D., (pocket edition).

Gymnastics, Handbook of Medical and Orthopædic, by Anders Wide. In twelve vols. (pocket edition). Physical and Occupational Re-education of the Maimed, by Jean Camus. In two vols.

Psycho-Analysis, A Brief Account of the Freudian Theory, by Barbara Low, B.A. In two vols. Psychotherapy in Civil Practice, by R. G. M. Ladell

(pocket edition).





T is extremely interesting to look back into the past and examine the first organised efforts made to ameliorate the condition of the blind. Our earliest record is that of an institution which existed as far back as the 4th century. This was a hospital established by St. Basil at Cæsarea, Cappadocio. We next hear of a refuge established by the hermit St.

Lymne, in Syria, in the 5th century, and again of an institution founded by St. Bernard, Bishop of Le Mans, in the 7th century. We have, however, but slender records of these institutions, and it is not until the year 1260 that we hear of the first really great public effort to benefit the blind in the founding of a hospital in Paris by Louis IX. The story goes that he founded this hospital for 300 of his soldiers who had become blinded in the crusade in Egypt, but although the statutes of the founder have been preserved, no mention is made of the Crusaders. In the 16th century an Italian physician named Girolamo Cardan conceived the idea that the blind could be taught to read and write by the means of touch. At the same time Francesco Lucas in Spain and Rampazetto in Italy made use of large letters cut in wood for the instruction of the blind. A book dealing with the condition of the blind was published in the year 1646. It was written by an Italian, and was published both in Italian and French, under the title of "L'Aveugle affligé et consolé." Again in 1670 a book dealing with the instruction of the blind was written by a Jesuit named Lana Terzi. Then in 1749 we get Diderot's famous "Lettres sur les Aveugles à l'Usage de ceux qui Voient," intended to demonstrate in how far the moral and intellectual nature of man is modified by blindness. Dr. S. G. Howe, who many years afterwards translated and printed the "Letter" in embossed type, characterises it as abounding in errors of fact and inference,

but says also that it is full of beautiful suggestions. The result of the publication of this "Letter" resulted in Diderot's imprisonment for three years in the Bastille, from which he was only released because his services were required for the forthcoming Encyclopædia.

Prior to the 18th century blind beggars existed in such numbers that they are said to have struggled for standing room in positions favourable for asking alms. Their very affliction led to their employment as spectacles for the amusement of the populace. The degraded condition of the masses of the blind in France attracted the attention of Valentin Hauy. In 1771, at the annual fair of St. Ovid, in Paris, an innkeeper caused a group of blind men to be attired in a farcical manner, and to give a burlesque concert for the profit of their employers. This sad scene was repeated day after day, and was greeted with loud laughter by the gaping crowds. Amongst those who gazed at this outrage to humanity was the philanthropist, Valentin Haüy, who left the disgraceful scene full of horror. Said he to himself: "I must substitute truth for this mocking parody. I will make the blind to read, and they shall be enabled to execute harmonious music." Haüy collected all the information he could gain respecting the blind, and began teaching a blind boy, who had hitherto earned his living by begging at a church door. Encouraged by the success of his pupil, Haüy gathered together other blind persons, and in 1785 he founded in Paris the first school for the blind, known as the Institution Nationale des Jeunes Aveugles, and started the first printing in raised characters. He exhibited the attainments of his pupils in various branches of knowledge to Louis XVI. and in the same year published an account of his methods. On the invitation of the Emperor of Russia he went to St. Petersburg for the purpose of establishing a similar institution in that city. He broke his journey at Berlin, where he also founded a school for the blind.

The first institution for the blind in England was the School for the Indigent Blind in Liverpool, founded by Edward Rushton in 1791. After this date institutions were established in the United Kingdom in quick succession, and numerous institutions have also been established all over Europe and the American continent.

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PRIZES were recently awarded to the two best essay writers amongst the school children of Victoria, Australia. It is interesting to note that the winners in this competition were students at the Royal Victoria Institute for the Blind. The prizes took the form of rides in an aeroplane—an experience which will doubtless be remembered by the two prize winners throughout their lives.

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"OV ER the Fireside with Silent Friends" is the title of Richard King's delightful new book of essays, which has just been published by John Lane. and which contains an introduction by Sir Arthur Pearson. In everything that Mr.

King writes there is a sincerity, a frankness, and a sense of humour that makes him a master of his craft. We will here content ourselves with quoting what he says on the subject of books for the blind:—

"When you and I are 'fed up' with life and everybody surrounding us—and we all have these moods—we can escape open grousing by taking a long walk, or by seeing fresh people and fresh places, watching, thinking and amusing ourselves in a new fashion. But the blind have only books—they alone are the only handy means by which they can get away from the present. . . . for books do take you out of yourself, don't they? They do help you to lose cognisance of your present surroundings, even if you be surrounded perpetually by darkness;

they do transplant you into another world—a world which you can see."

And if ever a book was guaranteed to cure an attack of boredom or while away an idle hour, this book of essays is assuredly the one for such a purpose.

ALLAHABAD BLIND ASYLUM

ROM Allahabad comes information concerning the Blind Asylum in that town. This asylum occupies about an acre of valuable property well located within the city limits. The buildings are low, with mud walls and native tile roofs. The asylum is supported to a great extent by the municipality, which

allocates 150 rupees per month for its support. A missionary givesasmuch time and attention as is possible to the work, without receiving remuneration of any kind. The staff further consists of a Chaukidar (servant) a water-carrier and a



A NUMBER OF BLIND NATIVES OF CENTRAL AFRICA (MADZI MOYO MISSION)

sweeper. The food consists of about twelve ounces of barley and four ounces of rice per day. In addition each inmate receives five annas per week to provide fuel for cooking purposes, and for any other food he may require. In former days poor sighted people were also admitted to this asylum. No regular instruction is given, lack of competent and continuous supervision being the cause. No distinction is made as to race, caste or creed, but there are no European or Anglo-Indian inmates.

Our informant tell us that here is a splendid opportunity for constructive work for the blind. In the census of 1911, 104,000 cases of blindness were reported in the United Provinces. Homes for the blind are very few and painfully inadequate.

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THE OPHTHALMOSCOPE

PRIOR to 1851 the interior of the eye had never been explored and there was no knowledge of the conditions which interfered with vision other than those apparent by inspecting the anterior segment of the eye.

Von Helmholtz, the great physicist, produced an instrument termed the Ophthalmoscope, by means of which it became possible to illuminate the fundus or back part of the eye, and to study under considerable magnification the many diseased conditions which were formerly the subjects of theoretical speculations.

This discovery was undoubtedly one of the greatest achievements inphysical science, and has been of incalculable benefit to medicine.

The Ophthalmoscope consists primarily of a concave silvered mirror with a central perforation, behind which are placed a number of convex and concave lenses set into a disc, which is capable of rotation, so that any one of the series of lenses may be brought before the aperture. The examination is made in a darkened room, the patient being placed in front and somewhat to the side of a single source of illumination; the examiner, stationing himself before the patient with the central aperture in the mirror held close to his eye, collects the rays of light from the lamp upon the mirror of the ophthalmoscope and directs them upon the eye to be examined. The patient is then directed to gaze exactly in front of him, while the examiner approaches to within a few inches of the patient's eye, keeping the pupil steadily illuminated. The interior of the eye is at once visible, and may be studied without inconvenience or strain to the patient or observer for a protracted interval.

The picture of the interior of the eye is one of great beauty. Varying in shade, depending upon the amount of pigmentation, being lighter in blondes and darker in brunettes, the fundus presents a uniformly pinkish-yellow appearance, broken by the reddish walls of the retinal arteries and veins, as they course over the retina in their exit and entrance in the optic nerve.

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WE ought not to judge of men's merits by their qualifications, but by the use they make of them. Shelley.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

FICTION

6 11 NG 1 TO-11 6 1	T 77 477 W
Iolly-Make-Believe, 1 vol	
ity the Poor Blind, 4 vols	H. H. Bashford
earch Party, 4 vols	G. A. Birmingham
. Tembaron, 9 vols	Mrs. F. H. Burnett
unshine Sketches of a Little To	wn, 3 vols.
	S. Leacock

when Love Files out of the	windsw, 4 vois.
	L. Merrick
*Would-be-Goods, 2 vols	E. Nesbit
Miser's Money, 6 vols	Eden Phillpotts
*Plunder, 2 vols	
Pa Gladden, 3 vols	E. C. Waltz

MISCELLANEOUS

What I found out in the House of a German
Prince, 2 vols "An English Governess"
House of Fame, 3 vols
*Economics: An Introduction for the General

FOREIGN

Froissart (Extraits des Chroniqueurs Français), 3 vols.........Gaston (edited by Paris et Jeanroy) Premières Méditations Poétiques, 2 vols.

A. de Lamartine Norge Gjennem hundrede År, 1 vol...H. Mathiesen La Chastelaine de Vergi, 1 vol. edited by G. Raynaud

ESPERANTO

Akrobato de nia Sinjorino, 1 vol...... E. S. Payson Svisaj Rakontoj, 2 vols..... E. Zahn

MOON

MUSIC

· THEORETICAL--

* Stereotyped Books.

Contents of the November Numbers

Progress.-Editor's Note-Christmas Eve, by Washington Irving-The Bells-"A Christmas Carol" (Poem) by Chas. Dickens-Adventures of a Gramophone Recorder-Our Prize Competitions-Matters of the Moment—"Through the Looking-Glass," 1920 Obituary Notices-Question Box-Chess-Our Home Page—Advertisements—An Up-to-Date Hohby
—Supplement: Your Income Tax—"Logs to Burn"
—Nursery-Rhymes and Politics—"Remembrance."

The Literary Journal.—The Prime Minister Analyzed —Glimpses of the Victorian Court—An Adventure in Borneo—The Industrial Future—Games at the National Institute for the Blind-Recent Additions to the Massage Library-National Library for the Blind-The Stirring in the Churches-Reviews of Books.

The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics .- The Financial Position of the Society-Lectures, etc.-Registered Membership—Annual Meeting—Some General Principles in the Treatment of Heart Disease (to be continued).

Braille Musical Magazine.- The Irish Origin of Christmas Carols, hy W. H. Grattan Flood, Mus. D. —More Psychology for Musicians—Music at the National Institute—Advertisements—Tuners'Column Mr. Harold Dawber's Recital—That Wonderful South Place, by W. R. Anderson—Organ at Third Church of Christ Scientist—Notes on News—Mr. Spanner's Piano Recital—Anecdotes-Supplement: Braille Music Reviews; Insets: Organ, "Festival Toccata," by P. Fletcher; Song, "Divided," by A. Hollins.

School Magazine.—Away in the Wilderness, 3 (Abridged) by R. M. Ballantyne—The Coming of the Liquid-Fuel Age, from The Sphere-Christmas in Mid Europe from The Sunday at Home-Biography in Brief: John McAdam-The Holly Bough (Poem), by Charles Mackay—Paper: the Textile of the Future
—Queries—Westininster Abbey and its Inhabitants, from My Magazine-The Sleep of Plants-The Stone in the Road-Long Lived Seeds.

City of Nottingham Education Committee COLVILLE STREET SCHOOL FOR BLIND AND DEFECTIVE SIGHTED CHILDREN. Wanted, Assistant Mistress, Sighted, Certificated Grade, qualified to teach Handwork and Braille; salary £150-£280, according to qualifications and experience. Forms of application may be obtained from the Clerk, Education Offices, South Parade, Nottingham, on receipt of a stamped and directed wrapper, and should be returned not later than 10th January 20th December, 1920,

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OFTHE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. BROWN, M.A.

Comrades. - The Quest of the Golden Fleece, 4 (Serial), adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's version—Holly, from "Stories for the Story Hour," by Ada M. Marzials-An Adventure on Christmas Eve (Grade I), from "The Playbox Annual"—Only a Shoeblack, from "The Oxford Reading Book"—All Round the Christmas Tree, by A. Matheson—Answer to last month's puzzle—Riddles to trick you.

The Hampstead. Philistrina Listens, by L. Beeston-The Seventh Christmas, by J. J. Bell-Do I Earn my £400 a year?—Making three millions of money an hour—The Railway Conquest of the Dark Continent.

Santa Lucia.-Great Seal of the Kingdom-Can we Conquer Fire ?-Coloured Fountains from the Earth -The Pawn's Count: chapters 16–17 (to be continued) by E. Phillips Oppenheim—How long will the Trees Last?—The Seaweed Harvest—Remember! by Laurance Binyon-Why Cats have Whiskers-"Fair" Prices, by Ladhroke Black—£112,000 a year.

The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type). - The Mantle of the East (continued) - Engine to Raise Sunken Treasure—Fighting the Paper Famine—Merry Bells—Editorial—New Publications.

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Nuggets.-One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mines of the world's interesting treasureheaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED.—Trained Certificated Mistress, age 20. Educated Bristol (1905-1916) Royal Normal College (1916-20). Blind, but residue of sight. Excellent testimonials and record. -Macleod, Castlefield, Sands, High Wycombe.

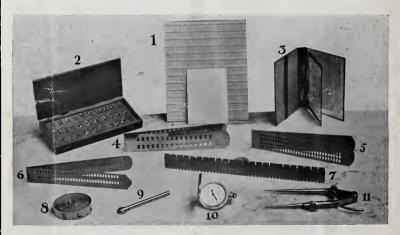
The After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind, London, would welcome Gifts of Cast-off Wearing Apparel, such as Boots, Shoes, etc., for Distribution among Necessitous Blind Persons, both Adults and Children. Numerous applications have been received of late for such articles, particularly for Men's Outer Garments. Any articles of clothing which can be spared should be sent to the SUPERINTENDENT, "After-Care Department," National Institute for the Blind, 8 Carburton Street, Great Portland Street, W. 1

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



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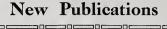
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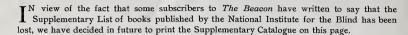
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

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				Vol. 1	2	6	47	08	Associated Board Examination Studies		
4683	Ditto	ditto	ditto	,, 2	2	6	1		and Pieces (1921), Primary Division,		
4684	,,	,,	,,	,, 3	2	6			Lists A, B, C (Bar by Bar)	0	9
4685	,,	,,	,,	., 4	2	6	47	09	Nos. 7 and 8 of "Forty-eight Preludes		
4686	"	**	,,	,, 5	2	6	1		and Fugues," Part I, by Bach (Bar by		
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4689	"	",		., 8	2	6	1,	10	by Debussy (Bar by Bar)	1	0
4690	**	"	"		2	6	40				U
4691	"	**	**	,, 9		6	47	11	"Alla Tarantella," by MacDowell, Op.		_
	Frankli	. T C 4 b -	", "T-1 /D		2	-			39, No. 2 (Bar by Bar)	0	3
4692	From th	e Log of the		ennett)	2	6	. 47	12	"Spring Song," by Merkel, Op. 18 (Bar by Bar)	0	3
		FORE	EIGN				47	13	"Lullaby" ("Berceuse"), by Bax (Bar		
4699	TheEspe	eranto Teach	ner (Frver)Vol. 1	2	6	-		by Bar)	0	3
4700		,,	()	2		6	47	14	"Dreams and Delights" (Five Easy	٠	,
1.00	,,	,,	**	,,	-	•	1 .		Pieces), by Markham Lee (Bar by Bar)	0	6
		HISTO	RICAL				47	15	"Bygone Days" (Lyric Suite), by Lind	U	٠
					_		1,	13	(Bar by Bar)	0	9
4650	Outline	of History (Wells)	Vol. 11	2	6	47	16	"Poppies in the Corn" (Intermezzo), by	U	,
							47	10		_	,
		MISCELL	ANEOU	S			45		Gerard, Op. 6, No. 2, (Bar by Bar)	0	3
4698	Treatme	nt of Voice	and Speed	h Defects			47	17	"The Plaintive Shepherd," by Driver		
10/0		nahon) (Pocl			Λ	6			(Bar by Bar)	0	2
	(Macii	ianon) (1 oc	KCI)		U	v		18	"Spring Joy," by Thompson (Bar by Bar)	0	3
		OT 10 4 NI	n new	OTTOBIA I			47	19	"Six Sketches" (Primary), by Stanford		
	KELIGI	OUS ANI	D DEVI	JIIONAL	-				(Bar by Bar)	0	4
4693	Hymnal	Companion	(Words)	Vol. 1	2	6		Sor	vgs	•	
4694		**	11	,, 2	2	6	47	20	"The Fountain Mingles with the River,"		
4695	٠,,	"	**	,, 3	2	6			by Gounod (E: Compass, D to E')	0	3
4696	11	**	11	,, 4	2	6	17	21	"Echo," by Fothergill (B flat: Compass,	U	3
4697		**	"	,, 5	2	6	17	21		U	3
							47	22	B, to E')	U	3
		MU	SIC				47	22			2
OR	GAN-						477	22	Compass, E to F')	0	3
4701	"Twelve	e Trios," b	y Albrec	htsberger,			47	23	"To His Majesty—The King!" by Watson	^	•
	arr. b	y Marchant	(Bar by E	Bar)	1	3			(B flat: Compass, B, to D')	0	3
4702	"Twelve	e Sketches"	Short V	oluntaries			47	24	"Mother's Playtime Songs," by Worlock		
	for Ha	armonium o	r America	n Organ).					and Gallatly	0	9
		mpbell (Bar			0	9	47	25	"Five Little Japanese Songs," by Wood-		
4703		and 2 of "							forde-Finden (Compass, A, to F')	0	6
		," by Smart			0	5	47	26	"The House of Life" (Cycle of Six		
4704		nd 4, ditto			0	5			Sonnets), by Vaughan Williams		
4705					0	4			(Compass, A, to F')	1	6
4706		union in G	" by Far		0	-		For	JR-PART SONG-		
1700					0	2		27	"Song of Proserpine" (S.A.T.B.) by		
4707		r)			U	2	17	21	Coleridge Taylor (Open and Vertical		
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THEBEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. V.-No. 50.

FEBRUARY, 1921.

PRICE 3D.

EDITORIAL



E have received a letter from Mr. Edward Evans, Vice-Chairman of the Association of Teachers of the Blind, which very courteously implies that in our Editorial for the December number of our paper last year we felt the necessity of defending ourselves from our friends, and that we have taken the letter of Miss Cramp's remarks at the Meeting of the Association

at the Meeting of the Association of Teachers of the Blind and neglected the spirit.

The passage in which we commented in Miss Cramp's speech will, we think, bear quoting again. It was as follows:

"There is at present only one magazine in print. This magazine is *The Beacon*, which is the property of the National Institute for the Blind, and which has therefore a prescribed sphere and a definite programme of its own. There is no publication which represents the various blind societies up and down the country or the isolated workers for the blind. It seems to me that it would be possible and desirable to widen the scope of *The Teacher of the Blind* by including in it articles and news relating to the various societies or the work of individuals in the blind world."

It is of course true that, as the National Institute for the Blind publishes The Beacon, it must, as applies to any magazine printed by any publishing house, devote a certain amount of space to giving publicity to its many activities, such as its very large publication of Braille and Moon books, announcements of games and apparatus for the blind,

and all those matters which are of national importance where the welfare of the blind is concerned and not merely covering a prescribed sphere.

In the course of his letter Mr. Evans goes on to say:

"Miss Cramp is the very able editress of The Teacher of the Blind, the organ and property of the Association, and was concerned in her address with a plea to the Association to admit of the widening of the sphere of usefulness of The Teacher. Now this magazine hitherto has been an educational Magazine, written by teachers of the blind for teachers of the blind, and has rarely associated itself with other phases of blind work. I feel sure that you will agree with me when I suggest that The Beacon is not an educational magazine in the technical sense of the term. The Association feels with Miss Cramp that it would be well to broaden the appeal of The Teacher of the Blind. The Beacon primarily is the mouthpiece of the National Institute for the Blind, and it is solely in that connection that reference to it was made. It seems to me that the writer has misinterpreted the general trend of Miss Cramp's remarks and based his leader on a phrase taken from its context and the ideas which inspired it."

The suggestion that *The Beacon* is not an educational magazine in the technical sense of the term prompts us at once to suggest that *The Teacher of the Blind*, if its title is an apt one, is only concerned with the "prescribed sphere" of teachers, and in our Editorial under discussion we were at pains to say that which we reiterate in all sincerity, that we wish the promoters of

The Teacher of the Blind every success in their plans for the broadening of the basis of the magazine. Anything that we, as Editor of The Beacon, can do to assist teachers we shall be only too happy to perform.

Mr. Evans says later on in his letter, which unfortunately is too long to print in

full, that:

"Every teacher of the blind conversant with the conditions prevailing before the 'new' spirit in the National Institute for the Blind began its operations must feel a deep sense of obligation to that body for the help he derives from it in his work. This, however, does not mean that every individual teacher must agree with every single manifestation of the activities of the National Institute for the Blind, and although the National Institute for the Blind occupies, and deservedly occupies, a prominent position among the social influences of our time, it is surely not an impertinence on the part of humbler bodies or individuals to examine critically some of its methods."

Here may we suggest that Mr. Evans, to quote his own words, has in a measure lost his sense of proportion? There is no editor in the world who desires his readers' complete agreement with everything set down in print, and the policy that we try to carry on in our paper is, as we said before, closer co-operation with our readers, better understanding, and a thorough ventilation of interests.

Mr. Evans concludes:

"Yet when The Teacher opens its columns to an expression of a view, stated in the most kindly and generous terms, which does not coincide with the official view of the National Institute for the Blind, that body immediately takes a resentful attitude. May I add, in conclusion, that the sole object in writing this letter is to endeavour to remove an impression that has in some inexplicable manner gained currency that the attitude of the Association of Teachers of the Blind is antagonistic or antipathetic to the work of the National Institute for the Blind."

We rejoice to think that an impression which never came from us may be removed by these words. It is impossible for us to believe that the attitude of the Association of Teachers of the Blind could be in any way antagonistic or antipathetic to the work of the National Institute for the Blind, if only for the fact that, as the premier publishers of Braille educational literature in the world, we should be acting in opposition to our own best interests were we to try and alienate an association of men and women, whose names represent a devotion, that needs no further emphasis here, to the cause for which we, too, are humbly working,

READING BY EAR

THERE have recently appeared in the optophone, a scientific instrument for enabling the blind to read ordinary printed matter. In connection with certain misleading statements asserting that the Braille system would be superseded by this method, we quote the following letter written by the inventor of the optophone, Dr. E. E. Fournier d'Albe:

"SIR,—In some of the reports lately published in the press concerning the recent optophone demonstrations at South Kensington, I see it stated that the method of 'reading by ear' is claimed to supersede the Braille

method of reading by touch.

"It should be noted that no such claim is made by either the inventor or the manufacturers of the new instrument, nor would there be any excuse in advancing such a claim. The optophone is an expensive instrument which but few among the blind will be able to afford. It is rather more elaborate than a typewriter and less portable. Above all, it is quite useless to a person with defective hearing, such as is very prevalent among the blind.

"The National Institute for the Blind, as the pioneer Institute for the education of the blind through the sense of touch, is bound to continue its policy of extending the embossed literature which has already attained such great dimensions. At the same time it welcomes every genuine invention for the blind, and encourages it if it shows any promise. At the present moment an experimental class in optophone reading is being conducted on its premises in Great Portland Street, and the blind may rely upon the National Institute for the Blind to utilise the invention in their interests to the fullest extent warranted by the results obtained.

"E. E. FOURNIER D'ALBE."

CAUSATION AND PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

MAN CONTRACTOR



MONG the many social problems with which thoughtful people in modern times are confronted, there is perhaps none of greater importance than that of dealing with the causation and prevention of blindness.

In a very able article which Mr. Ben Purse, under the pseudonym of "Veritas," has contributed to the January number of *The*

Blind Advocate, he says that the problem is one of first magnitude, and that, in consequence, it is entitled to closer consideration from students of sociology. Mr. Purse tells us that, according to the last census returns, there were in the United Kingdom 33,965 sightless persons, and he gives the following table, showing the census returns of other countries. Unless otherwise stated, these figures refer to the statistics of 1900:—

_						
	· Country			Total Number		Number per million of population
A	ustria -	_	-	14,582		540
В	elgium	-	-	3,448	-	487
	enmark	-	-	3,279	-	610
Ca	anada	-	-	1,047	-	427
E	ngland and	1 Wa	les	25,317	-	778
So	cotland	-	-	3,253	-	727
Ir	eland -	-	-	4,263	-	954
Fi	nland -	-	-	27,174	-	698
F	ance -	-	-	3,229	-	1,191
G	ermany	-	-	34,334	-	609
H	ungary	-	-	19,377	-	1,006
Ita	aly -	-	-	38,160	-	1,175
H	olland (189	90)	-	2,114	-	414
N	orway	-	-	1,879	-	838
Po	ortugal	-	-	5,650	-	1,040
S	weden	-	-	3,413	-	664
Si	vitzerland	(189	5)-	2,107	-	722
Sp	pain (1877)	`-	·-	24,608	-	1,006
Ri	ussia -	-	-	a	ıbou [,]	t 2,000
U	nited State	es (c	or-			
	rected cen	sus)	- 3	85,662	-	1,125

In examining the causes of blindness in this country, the writer states that very few children are actually born blind, the fatality occurring during the process of, or immediately after birth. He urges that, with regard to the fact that prenatal conditions are of such vital importance, our economic life should be so readjusted as to render it impossible for women to be in the workshops and factories for a considerable period prior to the birth of their children. Quoting Mr. Bishop Harman, the writer tells us that of 1,100 children in London Blind Schools 31.2 per cent, of cases were certainly, and in addition, 2.8 per cent. probably, due to syphilis. In 1,100 cases of blindness examined by Mr. Bishop Harman, 24.35 per cent. were stated to be due to gonorrhoeal ophthalmia. Of the 102 children at the Bristol School for the Blind, 41 cases were traced to corneal defects largely due to ophthalmia neonatorum. It is therefore pleasing to read the last Report issued by the Ministry of Health, and to observe that the concentration of public attention and the vigilance of medical officers and other officials closely identified with the work is having a most salutary effect.

Mr. Purse proceeds: "In a memorandum to the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, Sir Arthur Newsholme, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, summarised the notification of this disease made up to the end of 1913 to medical officers of health of sanitary districts which had made this disease notifiable.

"In the year 1911, 799 cases were notified in 56 sanitary districts outside London, of which number 438 were in Manchester and 238 in Stoke-on-Trent. In that year also, 575 cases were notified in London.

"In the year 1912, Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notifiable in 127 districts, and 2,186 cases were notified, of which number 697 were in London, 527 in Manchester, 237 in Stoke-on-Trent and 222 in Birmingham.

In 1913, this disease was notifiable in 287 sanitary areas, the number of cases notified being 2,078.

On April 1st, 1914, the Local Government Board made regulations for the notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum throughout England and Wales.

The number of cases notified and the rate per 1,000 births in subsequent years is given below:—

			Cases	1	Rate per
1914 (fr	om April 1	st) -	6,166	-	9.32
1915	ditto	· -	6,806	-	8.34
1916	ditto		7,613	-	9.69
1917	ditto	-	6,716	-	10.05
1918	ditto	_	6 532		9.85

Appreciable progress is being registered in the application of curative methods, and the writer expresses the belief that, with a

little more vigilance and the speeding up of local administration in the near future, blindness from this disease will be reduced to a minimum.

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THOSE who were present at a concert recently, held at the National Library for the Blind, Northern Branch, 5 St. John Street, Manchester, were given a most enjoyable programme.

The concert had been arranged by Mr. T. P. Dean in honour of Mr. William Eller and those who responded to the appeal which he issued a year ago for funds to purchase a piano for the Library, also in order to mark their appreciation of this handsome gift. The performers, who were blind, were Miss Minnie Williams (soprano), Mr. Tom Horridge (violinist) and Mr. Percy (pianist). Their programme was delightfully varied and well balanced, and each item was admirably played. Mr. Eller, in a brief speech at the close, expressed the thanks of the audience for the musical treat which they had thoroughly enjoyed, and their hopes that it might be repeated.

RETIREMENT OF MR. PLATT

WE have received the news of the recent retirement of Mr. H. E. Platt from his services as organist and choirmaster of Erdington Parish Church. Mr. Platt entered upon his duties at Erdington in 1890 and concluded them in 1920, to the very great regret of all with whom he had been associated. He previously held the post of organist and choirmaster at St. Saviour's, Hockley, Birmingham, and he had the distinction of having been a Church organist for fully half a century.

On the occasion of his retirement Mr. Platt was the recipient of a handsome cheque. together withan illuminated address, in which the vicar, the wardens, and the members of the choir gave expression to their feelings of respect and esteem towards their late organist and choir-

master. Mr.Platt still retainshis office as Head Music

Master at the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. He is Editor of the Braille Musical Magazine, one of the publications issued by the National Institute for the Blind.



H.M. THE KING'S FOUR-YEAR-OLD HORSE "VICEROY," IN THE STABLES AT NEWMARKET, WHICH ARE FITTED UP WITH FIBRE MATS MADE BY ST. DUNSTAN'S MEN

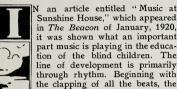
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THERE are in England and Wales 1,247 persons suffering from the double handicap of blindness and deafness. A small society, originated by Miss M. C. Baylis, has been in existence since October, 1914, and its benefits have extended to 221 blind-deaf persons. This society has recently been taken over by the National Institute for the Blind, and the number of those who have been helped by it has considerably increased. Miss Baylis is continuing her work in connection with this society.

MUSIC TRAINING FOR BLIND CHILDREN

(By H. C. Warrilow)

ASA CANCELON



Sunshine House," which appeared in The Beacon of January, 1920, it was shown what an important part music is playing in the education of the blind children. The line of development is primarily through rhythm. Beginning with the clapping of all the beats, the children moved on rapidly to the clapping of the strong beats only,

and then to the clapping of various rhythms. Further progress was made, from the clapping together to the beating out of a rhythm by each child, the rhythm being first suggested by the teacher and later invented by the child. The next step was the playing of a note or of two notes on the piano in a given rhythm, the teacher providing an appropriate accompaniment above and below. All this was interesting, and clearly indicated the immense value of rhythmical training, whilst the gramophone provided the children with the opportunity of hearing a great variety of musical selections.

Of late great improvements have been effected, for by degrees a percussion band has been formed, which now includes drums, tambourines, triangles, bells and toy trumpets. From the beating of times and rhythms, the marking of the "stations" has been added, that is, the strong bars of a phrase as distinguished from the strong beats of a bar. When a march or any other rhythmic piece is played on the gramophone or the piano or on both, the children are told when to play their respective instruments. An immense amount of variety is possible with beats, accents, rhythms and "stations," and the triangles as well as the tambourines can be beaten or shaken. Only by degrees, of course, do the children learn to hold their own, but it is remarkable how soon they understand where their particular instrument comes in. The trumpets are the latest addition to the band. They are of two kindsthose of only three keys, giving the notes of the common chord (with the dominant at the bottom) and those of eight keys, giving the full scale. These trumpets cannot be used in ordinary music, but they are an excellent means of acquainting the children with the notes of the common chord and of the scale. through the medium of keys which they themselves press.

There are no dull moments in the music class at Chorley Wood, for the rhythmic exercises and the pieces in which the percussion band takes part are varied by games, marching and dancing, in all of which music plays a very important part. All the children enter into the spirit of the games, the marches. and so forth, and it is now becoming evident that the musical atmosphere which is being created by both piano and gramophone is taking effect not only upon the children who actually take part in the proceedings, but also upon the younger members of the Home. The result will be-and is indeed already manifest-that those already in the Home before they are eligible for the music class will start with a certain amount of musical feeling. We may therefore anticipate that, in spite of the fact that many of the children are rather below the normal in intelligence, and have in some cases been sadly neglected in their own homes, a real advance will be made in music, and that the instruction given will stimulate mental growth and physical elasticity.

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY

The following have been added to the Massage Library :---

Psychoneuroses and their Treatment by Psychotherapy, by J. Dejerine and E. Gauckler. In five vols.

Exercise in Education and Medicine, by R. Tait Mackenzie. In eight volumes.







ASTmonth, in The Beacon, I pointed out that the Ancient Greeks had a persistent and wide-spread series of folk-stories, in which the interest centred round a Blind Prophet, or Bard, or King. I set myself to unravel, in some part, the dark origins of this curious myth, and shall now, with the Editor's permission, advance a few steps further into the laby-

rinth. Now there is scarcely any scrap of ritual, or folk-lore, of mythology, or belief holding in historical times through Greece (or indeed any other country in the world) which did not certainly have its origin in the savage ages of pre-historic man. No type of human culture, and especially no type of religious custom, has leapt suddenly into existence: it has been elaborated gradually, changing in its course and intermingling with other customs from the earliest forms of Magic and tribal Belief. I suggest that any of my readers who care to pursue this point should read Professor Murray's fascinating work, "Four Stages of Greek Religion, which is shortly to be issued in Braille by the National Library for the Blind. There are, of course, a multitude of works on the subject, but this combines conciseness, vitality and delightful style in a greater degree than do most.

To get on with our Blind Prophets;—I conceive that something of this kind took place. In the very early days Greece was inhabited by a swarthy, short-statured race of men, scattered over her in tribal communities, industriously tilling the soil after their primitive fashion, fishing the ragged coasts, and with some aptitude for pottery and weaving. They worshipped, where their beliefs had so far become concrete, some form of the great Earth-goddess, the giver of all life and fruit; and keenly their interest circled about the changing seasons—the

Springtime and the Harvest; for if their harvest failed them they might starve. In various ways, by sacrifice, by ritual, by magic, they strove to influence the course of Nature, and govern to some degree the rain and the sun, the flocks and the crops, and above all the Earth that gave them all they possessed.

Communities would vary in the methods they used: and some would come in time to place greater reliance on the help of their "Medicine Men" than they would in any sacrifice or sacred dance. These Medicine Men are a feature of primitive religion all the world over, and it is difficult to see why they should have sprung up at all. They are not necessarily old men; on the contrary we find everywhere that some type of a Community or Brotherhood of Medicine men will from time to time initiate fresh members into their secrets, and actually train them in the science popular at the time, e.g., the art of prophecy, the art of "rain-making," the art of "witch-hunting," or whatever it might be. Readers of the Bible will recall the Schools of the Prophets mentioned so frequently in the Old Testament, and it is of course obvious that many of the neophytes at these schools were young and sturdy men, going through a course in Religion, Magic and Prophecy.

There is abundant reason for supposing that here and there in primitive Greece were accepted Medicine-men, either banded in brotherhoods or practicing in isolation. The tribe would make its little effort to bring rain and sun where the season demanded it, but when all else failed they would call in the local Medicine-man and he would help them; he would produce the rain, cure their flocks, foretell the weather and the course of history, interpret the omens, comfort them in trouble, stimulate them in sloth. He was to them the man of the moment. Now, to take one point, there are dotted about Greece immensely ancient

centres of Oracular utterance, of which Delphi is the most famous. Here, in historic times, we have the priest or priestess ready to answer such questions as are put to him, and usually doing so under the influence of some type of trance or hypnotic suggestion. or an intoxicating vapour from the Earth. We have here and there in Greek literature descriptions of such a trance, and it is clear from the scanty evidence we possess that the priest was in a state of temporary "possession," and (here comes the point) blind to ordinary things. His eyes were fixed dully or wildly, and his mouth poured out mystic utterances that the hearer must interpret as best he could.

Again, a step further; we have various records from modern investigators of the character of this "Medicine brotherhood" among the primitive tribes of Australia, Africa, and so on. Occasionally a Medicineman has even been persuaded to reveal his craft and the story of his initiation to a scientific enquirer. Here and there we get a story in which the notion of "blindness" figures more or less prominently; the neophyte declares that at the time of his initiation he was blind-actually and fully blind for several days. He was suffering, of course, from some type of hypnotism; but the interesting fact remains that blindness was considered to be a necessary part of the young man's entrance to his great calling. What type of man, then, would the brotherhood of Medicine-men choose to incorporate into their number? Clearly, any young boy who appeared to have some peculiar aptitude for religious frenzy, noticeable strangeness of form or mind-in fact something uncanny about him. If he were a trifle mad-an epileptic, subject to hallucinations, etc.-he would certainly attract the respect of the primitive community in which he lived, would be suspected of "possession" by the god, and would be listened to and watched with the deepest admiration. It is a feature of those subject to fits and trances that the eyes are frequently wide open, noticeable by their lack of expression, uncanny in their remoteness from the wild utterances that are pouring from the sufferer's lips, blind to all that concerns them.

I think, then, that to a primitive tribesman, accustomed to turn to his Medicineman in trouble and fear, the sight of a frenzied prophet, crying wildly to him and yet blind to his presence, would be a common enough

spectacle. We can picture the medicine-man, called in to produce rain, gradually working himself up to a mad effort, or the prophet, seized with the certainty that he had a message for the people, descending to them from the mountain, and crying wildly in their midst of famine or storm or pestilence, or the oracle sitting in his hut and replying with fixed eyes to the question put to him. Such I conceive to have been the state of things among the wild dark tribesmen of Early Greece. I hope later to elaborate this theme and trace the further development of the myth.

THE BIBLE IN BRAILLE

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MONG the treasured possessions of the Protestant Reformers' Church is a series of tomes, over thirty in number, containing, printed in Braille, an entire copy of the Scriptures, from Genesis to the Revelations. These were, many years ago, the work of a blind member of the congregation, who spent many years on his self-imposed task, and at his death they passed into the possession of the church. Now they are about to enter into a new sphere of usefulness, for when the Lord Mayor paid his state visit to the Protestant Reformers' Church, on January 2nd, at the morning service, they were presented, together with the offertory, to St. Dunstan's Hostel.

Mr. J. Ford, one of the oldest workers at the National Institute for the Blind, punched out on metal plates the entire Bible by hand. This meant three and a-half years' work in his spare time and 20,000,000 blows with the hammer—each dot receiving three blows. These metal plates were presented by the Institute to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and were used for many years, until they became worn out. It was this fact which brought about the revision of Braille, upon which twenty-four experts satfor several years. New plates were then prepared, and are now in use by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

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MISS I. S. LYALL, of Aberdeen, has been appointed Superintendent of the Manchester and Salford Home Teaching Society, and will shortly take up her new duties.





N our last number we made brief mention of Mr. Richard King's book of essays, which has just been published by John Lane, and is entitled:—"Over the Fireside—with Silent Friends." Some of these essays have already appeared in the Tatler. It is interesting to note that fifty per cent. of the author's profit on the sale of this book is to be handed over to

the National Library for the Blind, Tufton Street, Westminster, and that the dedication is "to those V.A.D.'s who, though the war is over, still 'carry on,' and to those other men and women who, living in freedom, have not forgotten the men who fought or died for it."

The writer of these essays is a shrewd observer of all aspects of human nature, and there is in his reflections such a wealth of humour and of pathos, such a store of interesting observations concerning those things which really "count" in life, that it is a matter of some difficulty to select passages for quotation. Most amusing are his essays on "Relations," "Awful Warnings," "Badtempered People," "Unlucky in Little Things," "Wallpapers," and "Our Irritating Habits "-" How I Came to Make History being the gavest of them all. Mr. King possesses a fund of humour-not the so-called humour which expresses itself in much laughter and perpetual joking, but that real humour which is the possession of the seriously-minded alone. And his views are modern, in the best sense of that word.

The first six essays deal exclusively with the blind, and contain a plea for the provision of books for their solace and their delight. Mr. King draws attention to the many pleasures from which the blind are shut out, the difficulty they must needs experience in getting away from themselves, of seeking that change and novelty which in hours of dread and suspense is everybody's most

urgent need. "Some men," he says, "travel: some men go out into the world to lose their own trouble in administering to the trouble of other people; some find forgetfulness in work-hard, strenuous labour; most of us, especially when our trouble be not overwhelming, find solace in art or music, and especially in books. For books take one suddenly into another world, among other men and women, and sometimes in the problem of their lives we may find a solution of our own trials, and be helped, encouraged, restarted on our way by them. We can seek diversion in a score of ways, but they, the blind, have so few, so very few, means of escape. Wherever they go they never find a change of scene-merely the sounds alter, that is all. But in books they can suddenly find a new world-a world in which they can see. . . . Books are a blessing to all of us, but they are something more than a blessing to the blind—they are a deliverance from their darkness,"

Mr. King sings the praises of these three things—Books, Work and Solitude—and we hope we shall be pardoned if we confine ourselves solely to giving quotations from his remarks on these subjects, as they are eminently worth the reading. For the many other subjects touched upon by the writer we would refer readers to the book itself.

"Everybody has his or her own receipt for 'getting away." Some find it in long 'chats' over the fireside with old friends. A new hat will often lift a woman several floors nearer to the seventh heaven. A good dinner in prospect will sometimes elevate the spirit of a man out of the dreary 'rut' and give that soupçon of something-to-live for which can take the ordinary everyday and turn it into a day which belongs to the extraordinary. . . For myself, I sometimes find that to open a new book or a favourite old one soon takes the edge off 'edginess,' and makes me see that the pin-pricks of life are merely pin-pricks. But even when

reading-I like best to read alone-I am never really at ease when at any moment a companion may suddenly break the silence and bring me back to reality by asking the unseen listening gods 'if they've locked the cat out.' You condemn me? Well, perhaps I am wrong. And if you can find happiness perpetually surrounded by people, then I envy you. It is so much easier to go through life requiring nothing but food, friends and a bank balance than always to hide misanthropic tendencies behind a social smile. I envy you, because I realise the fight to be alone, the fight to be yourself, is the longest fight of all. If I must be honest I will confess that I hate social pastimes. To work and to dream, to travel, to listen to music, to be in England in the springtime, to read, to give of myself to those who most specially need me_if any there be ?_that is what I now call happiness. . . . You lose so much of your youth, and the best years of your life, trying to find happiness along those paths where other people informed you that it lay."

In conclusion, whilst recommending this delightful book of essays to readers, we cannot do better than again to quote the writer's own words as expressed in his introduction, and hope with him that "this little book will help to warm some unknown human heart."

We call our readers' attention to a booklet of verses written by Guy Envin, a blinded French soldier, called "Du Fond de l'Ombre, Petits Poèmes d'un Soldat Aveugle." These poems have a great deal of real merit. They are full of the spirit of poesy, and though many of them express that sadness "which is too deep for tears," the poet's grief at the loss of his eyesight is neither of a bitter nor of a gloomy nature. In his charming pictures of love and life M. Envin revels in descriptions of nature and of her gorgeous colours, which he delights in comparing to those of jewels. Note the poem which begins:—

"Mon coeur est un coffret d'opale et d'émeraude, Et mon amour au fond, comme un secret trésor, Loin du regard qui raille et du larron qui rôde. Mon coeur est un missel au triple fermoir d'or,

Et le nom de l'amour y brille a chaque page; Mon coeur est un flacon translucide et scellé."

If any one cares to buy one of these charming booklets Mrs. Headlam, 14 Walton Street, S.W.3. has a few for sale at 3s. each copy. The money goes to the Society for the Instruction of Blinded French Soldiers. A few of the poems have been translated into English, and of these we quote the following:—

MEMORIES

Though Winter's frost has touched mine eyes, My thoughts rekindle summer's fire, And in my heart there never dies The beauty of my soul's desire.

The roses of youth's flow'r-strewn ways Will bloom again when I am old, The scent of unforgotten days Will never let my love grow cold.

Thy kisses, sealed upon my lips, Are honey-scented, though I rest Alone and feel thy finger-tips So warm and gentle on my breast.

I shall recall thy songs and tears, Thy tenderness, thy happy smile, Aw all the torments of dark years Will vanish as I dream awhile.

Though I am blind thy shadow may Be present ever day and night, And thy dear face be sweetest ray To turn my darkness into light.

NOCTURNE

In heaven, as woon with trembling stars Space vanishes in depths of blue, The moon flings forth her trembling bars Engulfed by lakes of azure blue.

The garden opes her casket wide And spills her magic scents on high, The night in purple robe doth hide, And breathes abroad her mystic sigh.

Re-echoed by each rhythmic wave, By whispers soft of leaf and tree, By voices gay and voices grave, Imprisoned now, now scattered free.

She sighs, unheeded by the rose.
Upon whose heart sleeps Nightingale,
Until to dreams once more she goes,
By silence covered, as a veil.

A WISH

The magic garment of the earth
Unfolds its beauties day by day,
Rose-tinted fabric of the dawn—
At night a robe of silv'ry grey.

Brown fields, grey uplands, harvests gold, And little hills of tender green, And changing lights on vale and heath, Blue skies and lakes of emerald sheen,

Fair jewels wrought by sun and rime, Tall trees that seem to touch the sky, Soft clouds that roll above the scenes As Time and seasons hurry by.

You closed amid these dazzling joys, Mine eyes—those joys you held so dear, Yet in the night, beneath their lids, Shall they not oft-times reappear?

CONFERENCE AT BIRMINGHAM

N Saturday, January 22nd, a Conference convened by the Birmingham Branch of the National League of the Blind was held at Temperance Hall, when a resolution was adopted demanding a minimum wage of £3 5s. and £2 5s. respectively for men and women employed at the voluntary institutions for the blind.

The first resolution, which was proposed by Mr. Ben Purse, President of the National League of the Blind, described the system of piece work as applied to the

blind people of Birmingham and other great industrial cities as a system that did not make for efficiency in production any more than it was capable of vielding a decent standard of life to those practising the manual occu-pations which blind people werecompelled to follow. It was suggested that the estab-

lishment of a minimum wage would encourage slacking, and that if these demands were conceded the output of work would seriously decline. There was, he stated, no justification for those statements. The piece work system imposed an undue strain upon the physical capacity of blind workers and, granted that output might decline to some extent, there was no justification for the general contention that it would fall so seriously as to render it a negligible quantity.

Mr. George Wilson, Chairman of the Committee of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, spoke on behalf of his committee, who, he stated, were composed of men and women trying to do their best for the blind, as he had for twenty years, without any of them having made a halfpenny out of their services.

He most cordially welcomed the idea of public control, and the problem that faced them was how to raise money to carry out the desired programme. Trade Union rates were paid to the workers, and the average wage in the workshop was £2 9s. 4d. To enable them to get £3 5s. an additional sum of £5,800 would be required.

After further discussion the resolution was put to the meeting and carried with one dissentient. A motion proposed by Mr. R. D. Smith and seconded by Mr. Lawley was adopted, urging upon the city council the necessity of immediately availing themselves of the powers conferred upon them under the Blind Persons Act (1920), in order that the object as set forth in the previous resolu-

tion might be attained.

0000 ALTHOUGH totally blind from the age of 16, Mr. William Garrad, who has died at Bures, Suffolk, at the age of 87. waschurchwarden for 42 years organist and choirmaster for 35 vears, and manager of Bures school for 42 years, and of Mount Bures school



Pupils of the Iris de Villiers School of Dancing, in a Newspaper Ballet at the Hyde Park Hotel Party on January 13th, in aid of the Blind Babies' Home.

for 50 years. He farmed 1,000 acres and sold his corn at Colchester Market all his life.

BLIND TENOR'S DÉBUT

C HAPIRO, the blind tenor, made a succesful début at the Canterbury, on Jan. 17. Originally a basket-maker by trade, his hardearned savings were expended in obtaining tuition in singing from the best Italian masters. His first number was appropriately staged, Shapiro being engaged in dexterously manufacturing baskets whilst singing "In the Garden of your Heart." This number was very cordially received by the large audience present, as was the second song, "Until." Shapiro's head notes are particularly clear and musical, and he has every reason to be satisfied with his reception. Era

A MINIMUM INCOME FOR ALL BLIND WORKERS

N his interesting pamphlet, "A Minimum Income for all Blind Workers," Mr. Purse has provided much food for thought. At the outset he says that in setting up a defence of the principle of a minimum wage he is concentrating attention upon a scientific rather than a sentimental exposition of his case. He disposes briefly of the criticism that, given the establish-

ment of the principle of a minimum wage it would be impossible to detect malingering, by declaring that the danger is equally great where the officials are concerned, as they are not subjected to the rigid discipline

required of the workman.

With reference to blind workers, Mr. Purse argues that they are entitled to the same security and stability of existence as are their sighted confrères. He next proceeds to give an interesting account of conditions which prevailed previous to the introduction of the wage system, "when," he says, "there was a certain rough code of ethics to which even the holders of serfs found it to their pecuniary interest generally to conform. They knew, for example, that it was unremunerative to improperly feed, clothe and house their vassals, and after a rather crude fashion they sought to provide these essentials. So far, indeed, did the system succeed, that the natural heritage of freedom was but tardily appreciated for a protracted period, thus demonstrating in some measure the truth of the axiom that 'He who was never conscious of his slavery never was a slave."

"The transitory period, having been successfully bridged, ultimately gave rise to a very different conception of the status to be occupied by the so-called working classes, and the introduction of the wage system, with its multifarious ramifications and complexities, finally fastened on the community what is known as 'The iron law of wages.' This law, in its application at least, has not always taken into account the salient conditions we observe obtained under the system of serfdom; for in its assertion it seeks to ascertain what is the actual minimum level of subsistence rather than the yielding of an amount in cash values such as will provide a regularised standard of comfortable existence."

Passing on to the introduction of piecework conditions of employment, Mr. Purse declares that these were not designed to promote the comfort and well-being of the worker, but rather to accelerate wealthproduction and to yield to the employing classes a larger margin of wealth than could be guaranteed under another system. The result was deterioration in the quality of production. Financially the worker was better off for the time being, but his health deteriorated, and his opportunities for leisure declined. "This," says the writer, "is precisely the position of the working section of the blind community to-day. Loss of eve-sight, with its consequent limitation of physical activities, tends to reduce vitality, and any system such as that of piecework, which imposes additional barriers to the maintenance of a proper physical status, is of necessity to be condemned." Admitting that the recognition and establishment of the minimum wage would inevitably lead to a reduction in output, "when every other important consideration is sacrificed to the temporary expedient of wealth production then it is surely time to cry a halt."

Mr. Purse urges that unless the authorities of institutions for the blind can be prevailed upon to provide a reasonably adequate minimum wage, the Government should be urged to set up Trade Boards for those industries generally followed by the blind. He says that profit accruing from the employment of the labour of the blind can never be more than a mere incident in the process of production, but that in consequence of this consideration the blind worker

should by no means be content to receive

less than a living wage.

Mr. Purse furnishes us with a very concise summary of his conclusions, which are as follows:—

"(1) A minimum wage, to be of any practical utility, must comply with the cardinal necessities of life. It must be capable of providing proper food, reasonable housing and adequate clothing. Such demands constitute the heritage of every human being, and any system yielding less than these prime conditions is faulty alike in its conception and application.

"(2) As a basis for the Minimum Wage which we wish to see established on behalf of the blind community (irrespective of sex) we advocate the recognition of the rate paid by the Municipalities to unskilled labour, with the relative proviso that every advance given to such grades by the civic authorities should also be conceded to the blind.

"(3) Having regard to the present cost of living, we suggest that it is not possible for any sightless man or woman to properly subsist on less than £3 5s. per week, and no Institution for the Blind ought to pay less

than such a sum.

"(4) The evils arising from low wages are too many to be enumerated here. Our considered opinion is, however, that most of the difficulties would disappear with the establishment of a reasonable minimum wage. (See our reference to Mendicancy, &c.)

"(5) Though we admit that the establishment of a Minimum Wage would probably, for a time at all events, reduce output, we are convinced that the improvement which would take place in the quality of production would be more likely to establish a permanent position in the open market for goods manufactured by the labour of the Blind.

"(6) We are not convinced that there is any substantial ground for asserting that a Minimum Wage would encourage malingering, and since this view entirely emanates from persons who occupy salaried positions, and who are therefore in receipt of a Minimum Wage, we consider that such an expression of opinion could only be valuable if it included within its scope all such persons. It will be noted, however, that they themselves always reject the doctrine known as 'Payment by Results.' If they believed what they say the metaphor would surely be applicable that 'Those who live in glass houses should never throw stones.'"

The above is a brief exposition of Mr. Purse's arguments. Those of our readers who wish to go more deeply into the subject should obtain the full pamphlet, "A Minimum Income for all Blind Workers," price 4d., and obtainable from the National League of the Blind, Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, E.C.1 (published 1920).

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SUCCESSFUL SOLDIER FARMERS

R EFERENCE was recently made in the paper known as Canada to the success of many of the soldier farmers who have received loans from the Soldier Settlement Board, in order to start them on the land. The examples quoted are of great interest, as showing what can be accomplished by men of energy and determination. Sir Richard Winfrey, M.P. for South-West Norfolk, who was in Canada last summer, spent considerable time visiting returned men on the land, and spoke very hopefully of the general success of the scheme.

Among the settlers visited in Alberta was a blind soldier from St. Dunstan's, who has married an English girl. Through the Soldier Settlement Board a plot of land has been bought for him just outside the city of Calgary for the purpose of a market garden and poultry run. It is delightful to find that the Comrades of the War have with their own hands built him and his wife a charming little bungalow, which is remarkably well furnished and appointed throughout. The couple are as happy as sandboys and have already begun the cultivation of the market garden.

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WE note with interest that a branch of the Valentin Haüy Association has recently been started in Algeria. The number of blind persons in this part of the world is considerable. Hygienic defects, dust, intensity of light—these are all causes which provoke defective evesight. Until quite recently no serious effort had been made to combat the evil. Thanks to the efforts of an indefatigable French propagandist, committees of the Valentin Haüy Association were formed in two of the principal towns in Algeria, the aim of their work being two-fold: (1) the prevention of blindness; and (2) by means of education and of work to give the assistance most adapted to the mental and physical requirements of the blind of the north of Africa.

"THE FAWCETT CLUB," OXFORD

WE call our readers' attention to the following letter on the subject of the "Fawcett" Club," Oxford:—

Dear Sir or Madam,

On Wednesday, December 1st, there was held in Oxford a meeting of blind members of the University for the purpose of inaugurating "The Fawcett Club." This society aims (1) at the encouragement of co-operation amongst its members, (2) the acquisition of joint control of the unique collection of Braille books now in the Public Library, which has since 1898 been available to members for their use, (3) the establishment on a definite footing of "The Julia Wickham Memorial Trust," which is designed to increase the volume of classical Braille literature.

We strongly urge all those concerned, who are or have been members of any University or other kindred institution to remember what the library has been able to do for them in the past, to join the club, and thus promote

the interests of all.

The subscription has, for the time being, been fixed at 7s. 6d. per annum, which will, it is hoped, cover postage of literature to and from the library, and other necessary expenses. An up-to-date catalogue will be sent to every member who, if non-resident, will be entitled to take out books, provided they are not likely to be wanted by the resident members for whom the library was originally founded. All communications should be addressed to Miss J. Robinson, secretary and treasurer, 8 Keble Road, Oxford.

W. H. DIXSON, President.

N.B.—All books are obtainable from the Public Library, Municipal Buildings, Oxford. 0000

BLIND READERS

DURING the year 1920 there were issued from the Library for the Blind at 38 Howe Street, Edinburgh, 5,955 volumes in raised type. Of that total 1,988 volumes were in Moon type, which is more easily read by older people, or by those whose sense of touch has been in some way dulled. In Braille there were issued 3,205 volumes, while the Braille magazines issued numbered 762. There is a great and ever-increasing demand for up-to-date literature, and the eagerness

with which, to take only one instance, "Wells' History of the World," has been welcomed is remarkable. The books are sent all over the South-East of Scotland, as well as all over the city.

Twenty-two volumes were issued to blind readers at the Shoreditch libraries during the three weeks ended December 24th. A total of 58,130 volumes were lent in all departments of the libraries, viz., 21,231 at Haggerston and 36,899 at Hoxton, or a combined daily average for the seventy-four days open of 785, as compared with 615 for the corresponding period of the previous three years.

FREE RIDES FOR THE BLIND PRINCIPLE APPROVED AT CARDIFF

A deputation on behalf of the National Institute for the Blind attended the meeting of the Cardiff Tramways Committee last month to urge the introduction of free tram fares for the blind people of the city. The deputation was headed by Mr. McCurdie, of the Cardiff Blind Institute, and, in answer to Mr. Ivor Dudderidge, he explained that there were approximately ninety workers at the local institute for the blind, but the application applied to all the blind people of the city.

Mr. H. C. Bement, another member of the deputation, said those citizens who possessed their sight could see the city and admire its surroundings, but those who were blind and who paid their rates could not do so, and it was only as a compensation for their handicap that they asked for the concession.

The chairman, while expressing his sympathy with the application, mentioned that if the request were granted it would mean a

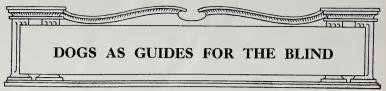
loss in fares of £750 per annum.

Mr. W. H. Pethybridge moved that the committee approve of the principle of free fares for the blind people, and that the trammays manager be asked to draw up any conditions which might be necessary.

Mr. Francis, who seconded, said the expenditure of £750 was less than a fraction of a farthing to the community of Cardiff. If the members of the council, he said, were to go before the electorate of the city and tell them that the concession had been given, the whole of them would acclaim it and say that the members had done their duty.

Ultimately the committee approved of the principle, and regulations are to be drawn up for submission to the city council.

Express.





HE following article on the use of dogs as guides for blind people has been taken from the Swiss Messenger of the Blind, a little paper which contains articles written in French, German and Italian, and is of great interest, inasmuch as it contains useful information concerning the blind world in various European countries:—
"The question of guides plays a

great part in the practical consideration of employment for the blind. In Germany the difficulty has been very largely overcome by the employment of dog guides. It may therefore be of interest to give some particulars concerning the training of these animals. The German sheep dog, the Dobermann and the Airedale terrier are particularly amenable to training, especially the bitch, which, by reason of its greater attachment to human beings, is often preferable to the lively male. The dog guide wears round his neck and chest a leather harness, to the ring of which a strap is attached, which is used by the blind man as a lead. The dog walks on the left of his master, always one step in advance. It is his duty to lead his master round obstacles or to indicate their presence. He takes a circuitous route when approaching trees, lamp posts, ditches, etc. When approaching steps, street curbs and so forth, he sits down, until his master bids him proceed. He stops when he comes to obstacles the nature of which is puzzling to him. Guide and guided must be in complete accord as to their observations. The blind man must be enabled to form a clear picture in his mind of the movements around him. The crossing of streets and squares demands great skill as well as extreme dexterity and assurance on the part of the dog guide. Not until he has followed the same path regularly every day can the blind man depend absolutely upon the guidance of his dog. But great must be the relief to his nerves when he can depend upon him to indicate obstacles.

"It is a mistake to surmise that instinc alone will enable the dog guide to fulfil his task. He has to undergo a severe and often cruel training. Amongst other things he is led past deep ditches, into which the trainer throws him without compunction, until he learns to avoid them by making a wide détour. He learns, too, to pass trees, hedges, etc., at a sufficient distance, for he knows that he would otherwise badly injure his head. When the dog tries to go up a step or staircase with raised head, his trainer thrusts him aside, until he has learnt to approach them in a cowed and careful manner. He must also learn not to stand still and sniff at every street corner. I became acquainted with blinded industrial workers whose dogs sat quietly in a corner for the whole of the eight-hour day, till their masters called them to go home.

"The trainer's task is one of great difficulty. There is always the danger that the dog may become nervous or intimidated. When the task of training is accomplished, the dog is handed over to the blind man, who then has to undergo a certain amount of training together with his would-be guide. In many cases dogs have afterwards proved unsuited to their calling, and, once out of the hands of the trainer, have returned to all their old dog habits. But it is very often the blind man who is at fault; he is sometimes incapable of making friends with his dog and spoils the effects of his training by unkind treatment.

"In Germany the war-blinded men have just begun to enjoy the advantages of dog guides, whose training is in the hands of the 'German Society of Ambulance Dogs.' These dog guides are as yet unknown in Switzerland, but occasionally we hear of a blind man who has himself trained a dog to this calling. We therefore ask those people who have had experience of these dogs or those who are in possession of reliable information on the subject to communicate their knowledge to the Secretariat of the Swiss Union of the

Blind in Zurich. We desire to test conditions prevailing here (in Switzerland) in the hope that our investigations may lead to useful results."

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THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION

WE are asked to call the attention of our readers to the various branches of the League of Nations Union, the objects of which are: To make known to the general

public the aims and achievements of the League of Nations and to organiseand coordinate public opinion.

The League came into being on January 10th, 1920, and on January 10th of this year claimed the following birthday record:

War prevented between Sweden and Finland. Hostilities arrested be-

tween Poland

and Lithuania. International Court of Justice established. 200,000 Prisoners of War repatriated between Russia and Central Europe.

Mediation secured on behalf of Armenia. International Financial Conference held at Brussels.

Campaign against Typhus in Eastern Europe organised and assisted.

Permanent Armaments Commission created to reduce Armaments.

International Health Office created to fight disease throughout the World.

Permanent International Labour Organisation established: two Conferences successfully held.

Membership of League now embraces fortyeight Nations.

We have received a letter from Mrs. Binns (2 Balham Hill, S.W.12.), the Honorary Secretary of one of the branches of the League of Nations Union, who remarks:—
"I cannot but feel that the support of a body of opinion such as the educated blind would be of great value to the Union and to the League itself, and that the activities of the League and the Union would provide a fresh source of interest and occupation for many blind people. There must be directions in which the particular capabilities of the blind could be utilised by the Union very profitably."

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ST. DUNSTAN'S STALL AT THE EX-SERVICE MEN'S EXHIBITION,
WHITE CITY

A DEPUTA-TION, consisting of members of the new Blind Committee of Sheffield Corporation, which visited the Bradford Blind Institution on the 14th January, for the purpose of obtaining firsthand information which would ena ble them to administer the Blind Persons Act of 1920, received many helpful suggestions from Mr. W. H.

Tate, who made the interesting statement that the incidence of blindness in Bradford babies had decreased during the past years from twenty a year to two a year. This statement evoked a query from a member of the deputation, who wondered how it was that while there were fewer blind babies the number of blind adults under the care of the institution rapidly increased. Mr. Tate replied that out of a hundred blind adults added to their list during twelve months thirty had become blind during the past two years. He opined that while the race was in these days longer lived, there were various functions in the body which gave way before the others. The sight was one of these.

Of the 178 normally blind persons under the care of the institution, fifty-four are over sixty years of age, fifty-one over seventy, and five over eighty.

BLIND SPORTSMEN

NE of the most interesting sights at a recent holiday meet of hounds (writes a correspondent to the Morning Post) was that of two blinded ex-officers taking in the whole scene in the market square through the eyes and lips of a more fortunate comrade. Later, when, having been driven out to the first draw, they heard hounds give tongue, their delight was most palpable. To men who have ridden to hounds prior to losing their sight even blindness, of course, is not an insuperable bar to hunting, and the cry of the pack is the best of all music for them. There was a Northumbrian Grey, who, after the world had become dark to him, still followed hounds on horseback, thanks to a pilot "calling" the fences as they came to them. So it was with "Parson" Smithson. whose Queen's County pack had a most tuneful note, and "I don't hear Rattler this morning; Roderick silent, too!" was the kind of comment he was frequently to be heard making during the day's hunting.

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CHESS AT WORCESTER COLLEGE

WE note that the players from this college who annually play two matches against the powerful Malvern Town Club (amongst whom two or three county players are usually to be found) were this year the victors. The College won by $3\frac{1}{2}$ games to $2\frac{1}{2}$. The only defeat suffered by the College first team was at the hands of the staff ($3\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$) and also by the second team, which won by 4 games to 2. The tournament was won by G. FitzGibbon, with 37 points out of a possible 44. He thus becomes School Champion and holder of the Mowatt Championship Cup.

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MUSIC AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

ON Monday evening, December 20th, Alderman H. Keatley Moore, Mus. Bac, with the assistance of his excellent choir of mixed voices, gave a very instructive and amusing concert lecture on Church Music and Christmas Carols. The great point which Mr. Moore illustrated was the fact that there is no essential distinction between sacred and secular music apart from its association with words; and he not only proved it by actual examples, but illustrated

it most convincingly by a large number of very amusing stories. The programme covered a very wide field, ranging from the eleventh to the twentieth century, and including specimens of English, French, German, Russian, Italian, and even Negro sacred music, in addition to a few well selected carols.

H. V. S.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

EICTION

11011011	
Somebody, 2 vols.:	Stella Austin
Tommy and Grizel, 6 vols	Sir J. M. Barrie
Romany Rye, 8 vols	G. Borrow
The Setons, 4 vols	O. Douglas
The Cross-Pull, 3 vols	Hal. Evarts
A Man's Man, 4 vols	" Ian Hay"
Mystery of Mr. Bernard Brown, 4	vols.
	E. P. Oppenheim
Mr. Cherry, 3 vols	J. Oxenham

MISCELL ANEOUS

Ballads and Lyrics of Old France
Finance Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. V, Ch. 18),
Cow and Milk Book Mrs. L. Guest
Maid Marvellous (Jeanne d'Arc)M. Horsfall
ncrease of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction)
Act, 1920 (10 & 11 Geo. V, Ch. 17).
Frow Your Own Vegetables, 3 volsS. C. Johnson
He Can who Thinks He Can, 2 vols O. S. Marden
Dante and His Circle, 5 vols D. G. Rossetti
tory of St. Paul's Life and Letters, 3 vols.

FOREIGN

St. Luke, Chapters XII—XXIV St. Luke	
Acts of the Apostles Book of Genesis	
DOOR OF GEHESIS	. "

GRADE III

India, a Nation, 2 vols	Mrs.	Besant
Speaking Across the Border Line		

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Dr. L. L. Lingvaj Zamenhof

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VOCAL EXERCISES-

R. A. M. Vocal Exercises for the Metropolitan Examination.

* Stereotyped Books.

Progress.—Editor's Note—On Hazardous Service, Chapter 1, by Mervyn Lamb (to he continued)— America's New President—Roger Bacon's Forceasts —The Best Songs of All—Obituary—Matters of the Moment—Our Prize Competition—Wool-Comhing, by J. W. Overend—The Modern Chinese, by Richard Oliver—Practical Jokes—The Question Box —Chess—Our Home Page—Advertisements.

Comrades.—The Adventures of Sir Beaumains, from "Tales of the Homeland," by Lewis Marsh, M.A.—Milando's Garden, from "The Wolf Cub"—The Doll (Grade 1), from The Children's Newspaper—Between River and Sea, from "Nature Stories to tell to Children," by H. Wadd ngham Seers—Puzzles—Wishes, by Rose Fyleman.

Braille Musical Magazine.—The Art of Teaching Singing—Sight-Singing—The Crimes of the Piano, by Richard Capell—Advertisement—Presentations to Mr. H. E. Platt—Music at the National Institute—Review: "Organ Playing: Its Technique and Expression," by Dr. Eaglefield Hull—Johannes Brahms, by Henry Davey—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews; Insets: Organ, "Andante Non Troppo in G minor," by E. Silas; Piano, "Lullaby," by A. Bax.

School Magazine.— Away in the Wilderness, 4 (Abridged) by R. M. Ballantyne.—The Evolution of Electricity, from The Children's Newspaper.—Life in a Frozen Realm—Biography in Brief: Sir Hans Sloane —The Brown Hare, by H. Mortimer Batten.—Wasps in Winter—Queries—The Moon—How Bread gave a Word to the Dictionary, from the Children's Newspaper.—A Heap of Letters (Poem), by Matthew Arnold —The Unheeded Signal.

The Literary Journal.—Mr. Wells' "Outline of History"—Lord Haldane—Recent Additions to the Massage Library—National Library for the Blind— Efficient Industries—What the Prince Saw—A Winter Sleep—Reviews of Books. Santa Lucia. — Behind the Scenes at Buckingham Palace, by W. T. Marsden—Logs to Burn (Poem), by kind permission of the Proprietors of Panch—The Pawn's Count: chapters 18-19 (to be continued) by E. Phillips Oppenheim — Uncouth German Travellers, hy Arthur Mills—Rejected Gold—Hiding-Places.

The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnasties.—Some General Principles in the Treatment of Heart Disease (concluded)—Correspondence—Lectures, etc.—Massage Examination—Medical Gymnastics Examination—Medical Electricity Paper—Splints and Splint-making (to be continued).

The Hampstead.—Rope's Length, hy Wallace M. Sloane—Will Bolshevism Come in England? by Mrs. Philip Snowden—Catering for the Zoo—Why the Parsnips Died—Good-Natured Gossip.

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Mantle of the East (continued)—The Tale of the Telephone—Saving the Mails—Where Banknotes are No Good—Travelling Plants—Dances of the Nains.

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Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Naggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Titi-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Naggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mines of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is asporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates.—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year, Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

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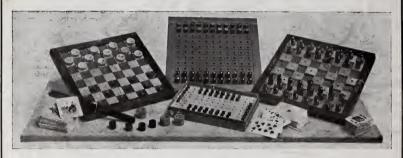
The After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind would be glad to hear from people who could offer good homes in private families to blind-deaf persons of both sexes, at a nominal charge. Anyone who is able to offer this, should apply to:—THE SUPERINTENDENT, "After-Care Department," National Institute for the blind, 8 Carburton Street, Great Portland Street, W.1.

The After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind, London, would welcome Gifts of Cast-off Wearing Apparel, such as Boots, Shoes, etc., for Distribution among Necessitous Blind Persons, both Adults and Children. Numerous applications have been received of late for such articles, particularly for Men's Outer Garments. Any articles of clothing which can be spared should be sent to:—
THE SUPERINTENDENT.

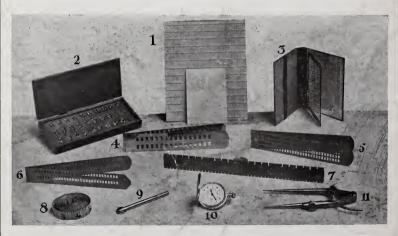
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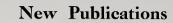


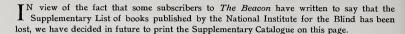
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND





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4734	"If ye then be risen" (Easter Anthem), by Naylor (Vertical So	core)						0	5
4735	"Praise the Lord" (Anthem), by Elvey (Vertical Score)	′						0	6
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s	ONGS-								
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4747	"The Songsters' Awakening" (Vocal Waltz), by Fletcher (C: C	Compa	ss, C to	F')				0	4
4748	"Off to the Greenwood," by Brahe (D: Compass, E to F')							0	3
4749	"Fair House of Joy" (No. 7 of "Elizabethan Lyrics"), by Quil	lter (B	flat: C	ompas	s, D to	F')		U	3
4750	"The Dreary Steppe" ("Triste est le Steppe"), by Grechan	inov (B mino	r: Con	ipass, (natu	ral		
	to G')							0	3
4751	"Voi, Che Sapete" ("You, who have knowledge"), No. 3 of	"Le	Nozze	di Fig	aro,'' b	y Moza	art		
	(B flat: Compass, C to F')			•••	• • •		•••		4
4752	"Six Love Songs," by MacDowell, Op. 40 (Compass, C to G')			•••		• • •	• • •	0	9
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TREBEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

Vol. V.-No. 51.

MARCH, 1921.

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EDITORIAL



OME time ago an interesting competition was announced in one of our Braille magazines. Mr. F. W. Johnston, of 311 Jarvis Street, Toronto, offered prizes for the best three essays written on the subject of "Getting About Alone." A large number of entries was received from all parts of the world, and it has taken some time to collect and judge them, so that

over a year has elapsed since the competition was announced. Besides the three prizes, honourable mention was made of the entries of fourteen competitors. The essays of the three prize-winners are now in our hands, and interesting facts on the subject of locomotion for the blind may be gleaned from their perusal.

To acquire the art—for so, I think, we may be permitted to call it-of travelling in safety, two things are obviously necessary: 1, a keen sense of hearing, together with, 2, the power of concentration and nervecontrol. The first is a gift which it is not within the power of man to grant, the second may be acquired by constant application to the subject, and, according to the remarks of the three writers, it may be studied by the blind man until he has indeed reduced the question of locomotion to a fine art. The first writer puts the case before us very lucidly when he says: "There are three distinct aspects of the question of independent locomotion. 1, to go; 2, to go in a given direction, and 3, to go in safety. The first of these implies the possession of 'Confidence' or 'Nerve,' without which independent travel cannot be safely undertaken. In the case of a person losing sight in early life, there is likely to be little difficulty on this point, but in the case of those becoming blind in later life, say above the age of twentyfive, this faculty of 'Confidence' may well be the most difficult to develop.

Yet even in such cases the blind person goes about the house in which he resides without fear or accident; he does not fall into the fire, or walk through a glass window, or tumble down the stairs in an environment with which he is partially or totally acquainted.

"If he lives in a quiet street, let him walk up and down alone carrying a walking cane, which he may use in a normal manner. Let him take his walk at an easy, comfortable pace, just as he feels inclined. He will soon find that his temporary nervousness is dissipated, that by means of his hearing he is able to avoid passers by, and he need not be discouraged if he collides with a perambulator, since this is often a bugbear to the most experienced veteran. . . . After a time he will feel quite equal to crossing the street. to taking a turning around the corner, and to tackling other quiet crossings, and so gradually he will find his way into the busier thoroughfares. If his nervousness be excessive he might have the assistance of a sighted person, who should keep at some distance from him, but near enough to render help in case of need. . . .

"If this first stage be satisfactorily accomplished there should be little difficulty in attaining the other two, in spite of their increasing complexity. To go in a given direction or to a given place implies chiefly the faculties of memory and observation, and also to

some extent those of hearing and resourcefulness."

The writer goes on to indicate the many landmarks which must be studied by the blind: "a brick gateway at the side of a pavement, the construction of the sidewalk—whether of flagstones, asphalt or gravel, etc., etc. . . . The plan of a railway station should be studied and then the plan of another, and it will be found that there is a great deal in common between the two, and so between all stations. On most English railways the first-class coaches are in the middle of the train, 'seconds' (if any) and

thirds' being at either end or at both. Again, a train usually runs on the left, so that if you are standing on a platform facing the metals he train will approach from the right and depart from the left. . . .

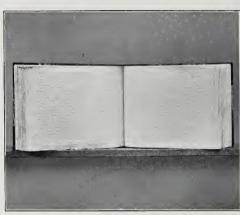
"As regards travelling along a country road, this writer says that it is often difficult to be certain whether you have turned a corner or not, and in that case the

position of the sun or the direction of the wind will be of assistance. He has a word of warning to the over impetuous: "In crossing a road where there is a good deal of traffic it is better to go slowly, as you are more likely to attract the attention of a driver and you are the better able to stop. It is as well to sound the caution, 'Never take a needless risk!' Nerve and confidence are the first essentials for self-locomotion, and it is desirable to economise them. Nothing is so likely to destroy nerve as being within an ace of a bad accident. Thus it is well to realize where one cannot go, or what one cannot do. And often it is desirable to take a more circuitous route. It is a rule of mine to lose a train rather than run for it. Again, it is not wise to show off in the vain attempt of making people think you can see, for you will probably give yourself away by colliding with some obstacle which, if you were not play-acting, you would quite easily avoid. It should be remembered that the best results will probably be attained subconsciously."...

Thus much for the first prize essay. Another writer has much that is interesting to say on the subject of the sense of smell in connection with locomotion. The second prize-winner contributes an article which contains an interesting account of the fluctuations which sound undergoes whilst travelling, and of the advantages which can

be derived by the blindin giving close attention to this point. The bulk of this essay will be found elsewhere in this number of our magazine.

our magazine.
Inconducting this competition Mr. Johnston states that his main object was to provoke a thorough discussion of the problem, and he hopes that any readers who have light to shed on the su bject will communicate



A BOOK IN MOON TYPE

their views to him in order that he may at some time issue a résumé of the material collected.

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A SALE of woollen garments made by blind knitters in connection with the Laura Strickland scheme for the blind was held last month at 109 Clova Road, Forest Gate. Apart from periodical sales, articles can be purchased at any time upon application at the above address. By means of this scheme from fifteen to twenty blind knitters are provided with congenial and useful employment. The music library for the blind in connection with the same scheme continues to make progress. This library is sustained entirely by voluntary contributions.



PART 3



SHOULD like to trespass for a moment in the region of authentic history before entangling myself further in these problems of folklore and early religion. Two correspondents, whom I mention with gratitude, have cited to me three instances of blind men in Greek life. I had in my quick mental survey forgotten the lot. The first two cases can only by a

strain of the imagination be called "blind," but their story is an interesting one. The third case I shall record is that of as great a man, in his special line, as any in the Blind Calendar.

When, in the early part of the fifth century B.C., the Persian invasion flooded over Greece, it was held up for a moment at Thermopylæ by a little band of Spartans. The historian Herodotus tells us that in the first days of this magnificent little stand two of the Spartans, named Eurytus and Aristodemus, were seized with some disease of the eyes, probably a type of ophthalmia, and withdrew from the fighting-line into reserve. The battle, however, developed quickly: the Spartan position was turned on the flank, and it became clear that their whole force would be overwhelmed. They ordered certain Allied contingents with them to retire, and decided themselves to fight to the end.

The two half-blinded men had orders, of course, to retire with the rest, and here came the dramatic point of the story. Eurytus ordered his soldier-servant to lead him back to the fighting-line and then run for it. This was done, and Eurytus died with the rest of them. Aristodemus, however, contrived to loiter about behind the line until it was too late for him to go up, even if he had wanted to. As a consequence he was the only man of the Spartan contingent to return, and his

story leaked out. The logical and warlike Spartans argued that if both had returned home nothing could have been said about it. When a man is half blind with disease he cannot be expected to fight. But as Eurytus managed to crawl back to the line there could be no excuse for Aristodemus. He was therefore branded as a coward.

The story ended a few months later at the battle of Platza, where the combined Greek forces finally defeated the Persians. Here Aristodemus, having recovered from his disease, was killed after performing feats of unusual bravery. In the eyes of posterity he somehow managed to regain his honour; but we are told that his fine death was not taken into account by his contemporaries. He had merely, as it were, settled his account, squared things up.

The third blind man on the list was Timoleon, who lived over a great part of the fourth century B.C. He had a strange life. Living originally in Corinth, he was early entangled in various political intrigues, and one swing of the pendulum put his brother Timothenes in power. Timoleon did not approve of his brother's opinions, and when another disturbance ended in Timothenes' overthrow and execution, Timoleon stood by and did nothing to hinder it. The bitterness in his own family was so extreme that Timoleon went into retirement for several

The next curious thing was a message arriving at Corinth from her colony Syracuse in Sicily, begging for help in driving off the Carthaginians and in settling her political disturbances. A voice in the Assembly, quite unidentified, suddenly mentioned "Timoleon" as a fitting man to send out; and the suggestion was unanimously approved. Timoleon spent the remainder of his life in Syracuse. He gradually calmed the State by defeating and finally executing the tyrant who was suppressing her; he defeated the Carthaginians who were pushing

across Sicily from Africa, and confined them to the western corner of the island : he set up in Syracuse a very adequate code of laws, which persisted for over a hundred years. One of his symbolic actions was to break down the fortress, the sign of oppression, and place on its site a Hall of Justice. In his old age he went totally blind, and to a great degree ceased to control the Administration actively. But he remained till his death a public and extremely popular figure. He was led or carried into the Assembly and gave his opinion with the rest. Indeed, it appears that any motion he proposed was agreed to unanimously, so profound a veneration had the people for his foresight and direction.

So much for historical blind in Greece. To return to our survey of the blind in myth. Consider, for example, the ways in which fairy stories and myths arise. Not out of nothing; men in early times had too much to do to sit round inventing amazing tales about dragons and witches and blind prophets and bards. A story will arise because one day some enquiring person-a child maybe -will suddenly ask, "Why are you doing these things? Why do you dance round this altar, and believe that such and such a wood is sacred, or always hang up mistletoe at Christmas?" Then the others, having to invent a reason or look stupid, make up the best tale they can. The tale is repeated from mouth to mouth, accumulates from generation to generation, and so we get our modern collection of fables and fairy stories and myths. Stories of blind heroes and prophets and kings might thus have arisen in an abundance of ways-and in some cases beyond doubt from a mixture of various myths. Consider, for example, a point of this sort. We know that now-a-days the lady in the side-show who is credited with second sight will always bandage her eyes. We know, too, of many quaint little methods of foretelling the future by the cards or the dice, etc., where the performer is blindfolded. Naturally, where you design to leave your fate in the hands of the gods you take care not to influence it in any way.

Examples could be multiplied where the performer of the divination, or act of magic citual, does not completely blindfold his eyes, but carefully averts them from his own movements. Why, for example, do we throw salt over our shoulders? Many reasons have been given for the origin of this custom,

but it appears that at one time such an act of ritual was a common one, and that it was believed that in this way one fed the household spirits, averting one's eyes, of course, in respect. All through ancient story, man hides his eyes in the holy places. It is almost an ostrich instinct. "If I close my eves" argues the primitive man, "I cannot see the spirits that haunt this spot, and therefore they cannot see me." It is significant to add, in view of this universal instinct, that two or three fables in Greece insisted that the blind men received their punishment because they did not, to put it bluntly, close their eves when by all the rules they were bound to do so. Tiresias saw a goddess bathing, watched even-and there you are. Thamyris challenged the Muses to a contest of singing and playing, was badly beaten, and finally as a rebuke for his impertinence, deprived of sight. It is like the story of Peeping Tom of Coventry, flung centuries back into Ancient Greece. And frankly I am not at all sure that the Lady Godiva story was not based on some very primitive piece of ritual. I trust later to have enquired into the story of Peeping Tom, and, if this blinded villain appears worthy of a corner to himself in the blind calender, he shall have it.

Meanwhile one might note the extreme interest the eye, especially the human eye, has had for mortal men of every period. The belief in the Evil Eye is almost universal in the world. It was fervently believed in the Middle Ages that witches cast their spells by the mere power of the eye, and if the eye fell on any man or his possessions he concluded at once that he was lost. The eye, in fact, with all its minute changes of expression, its squints and gleams and sidelong glances, has always seemed the real significant feature of its owner. This is not blindness, of course; but consider how, by mere contrast, the fixed vision of the blind man would appeal to his primitive tribesmen as something uncanny. I have noticed myself that when a man sits opposite me chatting away, with closed, expressionless eyes (even when he is perfectly sighted) I have felt for the moment a sense of the uncanny. Even more striking would be the fixed gaze of the epileptic, the sleepwalker, the tranced man; and, again, the stern watchfulness of the early hypnotist. All these elements must have played a part in giving our fathers their interest in eyesand a certain corresponding interest in blindness.





GREAT change in the attitude of the public towards the blind has been increasingly noticeable in European countries during the last decade. This change is also taking place in America. The writer of the following article, which appeared in the Christian Science Monitor (Boston) at the end of last year, endeavours to enlist the sympathetic understand-

ing of the American public on the subject of the employment of blind folk in rational

occupations. He says :-

"There is sure to be widespread interest in the experiment about to be tried by the Massachusetts educational authorities having in charge the special education of some 3.000 people ordinarily referred to as blind. Something distinctly novel appears in the attempt to place people of this sort in department stores as salesmen or saleswomen. But the authorities are confident that it can be done successfully, and they are finding many of the store managers quite ready to co-operate in the experiment, and almost equally confident of its successful outcome. The purpose of the whole undertaking, of course, is to open a wider opportunity for an industrious and earnest class in the community to become self-supporting, in place of being wholly or partially dependent upon the efforts of others.

"But there is a much finer idea than this behind the undertaking. It is that everybody should get a better conception of this class of people, and break the habit of classifying them wholesale as inevitably dependent, and largely helpless, merely because of affection of sight which distinguishes them more or less from the human mass. The educators concerning themselves with this matter feel that the ordinary individual allows himself to think of what the world calls blindness as a vastly greater burden and impediment than it actually is. Such a person emphasizes

it far more than the so-called blind them selves. He conceives of it as hampering, if not nullifying, the other four senses. But the people immediately affected do not dwell upon it in that way. In many cases, one might say, they do not think of it at all. Certainly they do not wish to be thought of as blind. It is such a conception of them by others that appears to them to be their limitation. Often one whom the world thinks of as blind has so developed the senses. other than sight, that his so-called blindness might fairly be said to have been for him not so much a hindrance as an advantage. That is to say, his sum total of capability is actually greater than that of many ordinary persons whose five senses are, to the ordinary view, complete.

"It is a fuller understanding of these considerations that the Division of the Blind. of the Massachusetts Department of Education, is now bespeaking from the public. They want the public to get away from its stereotyped notions on this subject. They want the public to be more open-minded about it. They want the public to accept those of the class referred to on their individual merits, without mentally pigeonholing them all as subjects of charity, or as capable of doing only a certain sort of simple and humdrum tasks. They want the public to realise that the people whose interests they are now urging represent a wide range of individual capability, with all the delicate shadings of traits, tastes, and experiences that can be found among an equal number of individuals anywhere. Then, it is believed, the public will deal with these people more fairly, because it will begin to accept them for what they really are, instead of condemning them to comparative inactivity and dependency in advance, through the prevalence of what the authorities themselves now expose as a false belief.

"There is a new hope as there is a new conception in this sort of official approach to such a problem. Yet the new method involves nothing fanciful. It is based on the careful study and experience of intensely practical, though deeply sympathetic, public boards. That it is not chimerical can be shown by countless individual experiences. One of these, easily authenticated at the Boston office of the Division of the Blind, is that of a man professionally trained in the law, whose connection with a local realty corporation threw in his way the duty of investigating a real estate title upon which depended an important business transaction. His firm, falling for the moment under the influence of the conventional popular belief. feared to trust him with the investigation. They placed it in the hands of an investigator equipped with all five senses, who in due time reported that the title could not be confirmed. The blind lawyer then asked and obtained permission to make the investigation. Taking with him only a reader, and depending wholly upon his own professional knowledge and training, he went over the case for himself. To the surprise of his employers, he succeeded where his supposedly better-equipped competitor had confessed failure. Presumably the employers of this man did not again hesitate to accept him on his true merits instead of underrating him on the basis of their own false assumption concerning his sight. If the world will go even a little way in adopting this fairer attitude toward the blind, the practical help from such a better conception will outweigh all that can be done through mere gift-giving and sentiment. Here, at all events, the world must look behind the outward seeming, and know capable individuals, not for what they are not, but for what they really are."

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MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BLIND AID SOCIETY

WE are asked to state that the announcement concerning this Society on page seven of last month's *Beacon* should read:—

Miss I. S. Lyall has been appointed Superintendent of the Visiting and Home Teaching Branch of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society.

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THE Braille magazine *The Lightbringer*, will in future appear as a quarterly instead of a monthly magazine, and will contain a double amount of reading matter.

CHEAPER POSTAGE FOR THE BLIND

DRIOR to the meeting of the International Postal Union Conference at Madrid during the months of October and November of last year, certain officials were approached by Sir Arthur Pearson on behalf of the National Institute for the Blind concerning the reduction of postage on embossed literature for the blind. The plea for such reduction. as put forward by the National Institute for the Blind, was based on the grounds that the blind community is very small, there being in this country approximately one blind person to every 1,560 sighted persons, further that as a class the blind, on account of their heavy handicap, are small wageearners; that there is an urgent necessity for the international exchange of literature in the case of the blind on account of the costliness in producing this literature and the scarcity of it when produced, and also that on account of the difficulty experienced by blind persons in exchanging their books at libraries it has long been found necessary to circulate literature though the post, and this has been a very marked advantage.

We now have much pleasure in stating that the Congress has agreed to a considerable reduction on the postage of embossed literature, the international rate having been fixed at five centimes (approximately one half-penny) per despatch per weight of 500 grammes (approximately one pound), the maximum weight not to exceed six pounds. Each Postal Administration is empowered, subject to certain limitations, to fix the equivalents in its own currency. The Postmaster-General is not yet in a position to state the exact equivalents which will be adopted in the British service, but an announcement will be made by him on the subject in due course. It should be distinctly understood that the revised rates of postage have not yet come into operation.

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THE Church Army is opening a Hostel or Blind Women near Parliament Hill, Hampstead. There will also be a few vacancies for sighted women. Applicants should communicate with Miss Martindale, 57 Bryanston Street, W.1, and should state whether they are blind or sighted.

WHY DO BLIND PEOPLE WALK WITH THEIR HEADS THROWN BACK?

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N reply to the query, "Why do blind men walk with their heads thrown back?" we have received an interesting letter from Dr. Elias, the General Secretary of the Union of the Italian Blind in Florence. His letter is unfortunately too long for publication, but we quote the following passages:

"Above all we notice that this

among people who were born blind than among those who have become blind, and also among those who are able to find their way about alone. Blind people, when in the company of sighted persons, do not walk with their heads held high It is not a question of an effort to hear. Therefore, sight and hearing having been eliminated, there remain the senses of taste, of smell and of touch. Taste is of no use when finding one's way about. The sense of smell, which should be of use to the blind in this instance, has in the course of time lost its power for the human race. There remains, therefore, the sense of touch. Blind people are aware of the presence of obstacles, as are sighted people. The latter do not pay sufficient attention to these except through the medium of sight, and therefore feel helpless when in the dark. The perception of obstacles in the dark becomes acuter through practice, and this is where blind persons excel. Important factors in the consideration of this subject are:

- (1) The acuteness of the general sense of touch by the subject, and especially by that part of his body which is exposed to the object.
 - (2) The temperature of the object.
 - (3) The absence of other distractions.
 - (4) The calm of the surrounding air.
- (5) The dimensions and shape of the object.
 - (6) The movement of the subject towards

the object or vice versa. From all this and other experiences of less value which I omit, I conclude that the perception at a distance is nothing else than a perception of touch stimulated by diverse refractions of the air between the subject and the object.

Were we to experiment upon a subject shut in an airless room, by giving him an apparatus through which he could breathe, his eyelids, his cheeks, the external portions of his ears and neck remaining free, I am sure there would be not the slightest perception of touch at a distance, as the indispensable connection obtained through the reverberation of the air would be lacking.

So I conclude that the habit of walking with their heads held up by blind persons is to be explained by a practically subconscious effort to expose the greater part of the surface of the skin to the action of the affected air."

A FINE COURTESY

HE country fair in the far north was drawing to its close, and the village lane fairly buzzed with many and varied methods of transport, erratic in their flight, as befitted "the end of a perfect day," according to rural, Scottish precedent. A blind officer was being piloted through the unaccustomed maze of traffic, when there approached a covered-in gipsy-looking conveyance. As it passed its occupant shot forth his head, and shouted cheerily, "The ----th Gordons, sir." It was a demobilised soldier who, knowing that his former leader was passing him unawares, adopted this ready substitute for a salute that could not be seen. The blind officer, greatly touched by the courtesy, halted and returned the salutation.

PEARSON'S FRESH AIR FUND

VISITOR to some of the slums in which our great metropolis unfortunately abounds must marvel at the possibility of young minds and young bodies flourishing under such cramped and dismal conditions. When, twenty-nine years ago, Sir Arthur Pearson inaugurated his Fresh Air Fund, he was doing something more than providing some thousands of poor children with a day's country holiday. To many he was giving a first glimpse into a world hitherto undreamt of and unknown-a world of green fields and open spaces. Who can tell in how many youthful minds was unconsciously born that day the wish in later life to settle "on the land"? Many a soldier during the Great War sent his subscription from the trenches, or a letter recalling the happy time which he spent with the Fresh Air Fund. And in many lives the memory of that one bright event stands out in bold relief and makes of that day's holiday the one Great Adventure of their childhood.

The writer of the twenty-ninth annual story of this undertaking informs us that statisticians have proved that we as a nation live from ten to twelve years longer than did our ancestors fifty years ago. . . "Attention to fresh air, sanitation, and hygiene have brought about this improvement, and the F.A.F. takes credit to itself for at any rate part of the improvement, a very small part perhaps, but still the fact that no fewer than 60,000 children have been provided with a fortnight's holiday during the past twelve years must have had some effect upon the improved conditions." We note that, in spite of many obstacles, such as increased expenditure, decrease in subscriptions, transport and accommodation difficulties, no fewer than 151,370 children were given a day's outing, as against 143,819 last year.

In the twenty-nine years of its existence Pearson's Fresh Air Fund has transplanted 4,191,917 children into the country for a day, and 60,877 children have known the delights of a two weeks' holiday under the very happiest conditions, mind and body being catered for in abundance.

The whole organisation of the Fresh Air Fund is conducted on the same simple system which was brought into force when the move-

ment was inaugurated twenty-nine years ago. The promoters bear the cost of all management expenses, thereby enabling all money received in subscriptions to be spent directly on the children. The main pillars are still Messrs. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., and the Shaftesbury Society and Ragged School Union. In selecting the children, no distinction is made of class or creed, and the only password is Poverty.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE following letter is reprinted by kind permission of the Daily Mirror:

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"New Zealand Observer,"
Auckland, N.Z.,

December 9th, 1920.

To the Editor of "The Daily Mirror."

Dear Sir,—You have been good enough to send me your paper of October 15th, devoted to the blind. May I say that nothing I have seen or read has affected me more

deeply.

I have many children of my own, happily all able to see their own beautiful land. The pathos of the front page, largely devoted to sightless children, is the more poignant when one feels that birth-blindness is so often preventable, and may some day be almost unknown. I know that that great and useful man, Sir Arthur Pearson, like all sightless men, deprecates a certain kind of sympathy, and have found out, particularly in conversation with Clutha Mackenzie, a blinded soldier who is proud of his friendship with Sir Arthur Pearson, that they are most proud of mitigating a profound physical disability by the aid of St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind. We have, of course, our proportion of blinded ex-soldiers and our too large proportion of people blind from birth, and it occurs to me that the magnificent work being done in England by Sir Arthur Pearson and the devoted people has an Empire significance. The extremely touching paper you were good enough to send will, I am sure, have already had an effect in focussing attention to the subject of aiding the blind to aid themselves. I am writing some imperfect things suggested by seeing and reading The Mirror, and forward you a copy. Thank you very much for the paper, which of course I know very well and greatly admire.-With sincere regards, I am, yours faithfully,

CLAUDE L. JEWELL, Editor.

BLIND ACTORS

L₀______ CCORDING to a paragraph in The Times 1 of January 22nd, one of America's favourite comic actors, Mr. Ben Welch, has suddenly become blind. The public whom he amuses nightly by his songs and capers

at the Schubert Theatre, Washington, were unaware of this fact until they read of it in the newspapers several days later. Mr. Welch had refused to allow news of his blindness to be made public. Nor would he give up his part.

Accordingly on Monday, the opening night, the blind man was led to the place in the wings from which he makes his entrance. took his cue, and cast off his tragedy and "carried on"sang, danced, and made merry, and he has done so every night since. Strips of carpet guide his footsteps and keep him clear of the footlights and scenery. The voices of the other actors also help him. When he has finished his numbers he finds his way to the exit

and brother artists lead him to his dressing room. For several nights the popular comedian appeared as usual, until the story of his blindness leaked out. Until then not a single member of any of his audiences was

aware that he was blind.

In connection with the above it is interesting to note that there is at present also a blind actor on the English stage. Very few people who enjoy the Harlequinade in the Covent Garden pantomime would suspect that one of the merrymakers is totally blind.

Yet Mr. Francis Mason, who plays the part of the Shopkeeper, and indulges in sausage-play as light-heartedly as Pantaloon himself, is thus handicapped. He is guided to and from the theatre each night and from his dressing-room to the wings, and he has never vet missed his cue.

Once on the stage Mr. Mason is quite at home, for he has played all his life, and, to

> use his own words, "knows every blessed inch of it!"

Blindness descended upon the comedian only fifteen months ago. and he hopes after a slight operation to regain the sight of the left eye. One of Mr. Mason's devoted friends at Covent Garden is the horse Bess. who, by a curious coincidence, was the original Black Bess when in his circus days thirty-five years ago Mr. Mason made Dick Turpin a very gallant figure indeed. Bess recognised her old colleague at the first rehearsal of the pantomime.



Photo: Daily Mirror MR. FRANCIS MASON, THE BLIND ACTOR, WITH HIS HORSE "BLACK BESS"

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Two years ago we announced that the Barclay Workshop had removed to larger premises at 21 Crawford

Street, Baker Street, W.1, with workshops at the back in 1 Little Durweston Street. Last year the Committee purchased the lease of No. 2 Little Durweston Street, which they have just rebuilt.

A training centre for teaching the blind weaving has now been started. The new workrooms are beautifully light and airy and the Superintendent pleased to show will be verv premises to anyone who is interested in the work.





LIND people are constantly told by their friends that the loss of one sense is made up for by the greater power acquired by the others, a view, which, perhaps, the more thoughtful among them never shared. A blind person of average ability certainly gains or ought to gain more information from his remaining senses than does a sighted person of the same ability

That is quite natural, because the sighted person can so often and so easily satisfy himself by the use of his eyes alone, that he almost disregards the impressions received through his other organs of sense; whereas these are the very impressions to which the blind person is always attending. But it does not follow that the blind person's senses are in themselves more acute than the other's. In fact, it has been proved that they are not, by the tests carried out in 1907 upon the pupils of the Institution for the Blind at Mulhausen, and upon other sighted pupils of the same age taken from the public schools. The results arrived at in this inquiry are summed up by Professor M'Kendrick thus: "Impressions may reach the sensorium of which we (seeing people) are usually unconscious, they may be detected by an effort of attention. The senses of the blind are not more acute than those of normal people, but the necessities of the case oblige the blind to pay attention to them."

There is no escape then; attention and careful observation are of prime importance, if any one is to get about successfully without the aid of light. Though light is gone, we still have sound, heat, touch, and smell, and we shall now try to show how attention and observation can make use of them. And first, sound. Let us suppose a blind person is standing in the road, and that he hears a confused noise like that of escaping steam, or of the wheels of an approaching carriage. The noise is reflected from the road and

from the walls and houses on either side of it, and when the person begins to move he will notice that a change is taking place in the sound. The vehicle is still at some distance. and if, for instance, he walks across the road towards the wall in front of him, of the presence of which he was not previously aware, he finds that the sound rises in pitch the nearer he gets to the wall, and sinks again as he moves away from the wall. Thus by the sound reflected from it he has discovered the existence of a wall or house without touching it. Were he to remain standing in the road and allow the carriage to go by, he would perceive the same change happening; the grating noise seems to rise gradually as the wheels approach, and to fall gradually as they recede beyond him. Musical sounds, on the other hand, do not alter in this way when they are reflected from surrounding objects. Yet they, like the commoner noises, do many interesting and curious things, if we take the trouble to observe them as we pass along the streets, and some of these are of practical use to the blind. But it would take too long to try to describe or explain them here.

It is in great measure, however, to these changes in sounds, caused by reflection and interference, that a blind person owes his perception of things near him. The sound of his own footsteps tells him when he comes to a wall or hedge along the side of the road on which he is travelling, and the gaps and gateways occurring in them betray themselves by returning no answer to his tread. A stick is always useful, but it should not be employed to tap the pavements. That is needless and diverts attention from other things. It is best to walk boldly, and keep your wits about you. Yet an object need not be as long as a wall, nor as large as a haystack for it to come within the ken of some blind people. A man lounging quietly at a street corner, a lamp post, or a gate across a field path are easily perceived, and they will know the thing is there without coming in contact with it.

I was once walking in the country with a blind man, who undertook to show me a certain field through which ran a footpath to the farm I wanted to reach. After the straggling outskirts of the town had been left behind, there were no more walls or hedges along the high road we followed. It was divided from the adjoining meadow-land only by a fence of the post and rail description. We walked briskly, keeping to the pathway at the side of the road, and chatting all the time. Suddenly he pulled up, saying "Here you are. This is the place." And sure enough it was. We were right in front of an open gateway leading into a field, across which lay the track we were in search of. I was surprised at his cleverness, and looked about for some explanation of the mystery. for I could see in those days. But I could find nothing, no worn depressions on the path we were on nor any sign that could have guided him with such precision. He said he needed none, he knew where to stop by the sound.

But this kind of seeing with the ear is greatly interfered with by the din of traffic or by boisterous weather. Wind breaks up the delicate refrain breathed from stock and stone, and noise drowns it, while snow, perhaps, is the most baffling of all, because it stifles all sounds that come from the ground, and is besides a bad reflector, especially in the freshly fallen state. In the still air of a room, however, a very little noise on the part of the blind person himself, or of someone else, is often enough to reveal the presence of an unsuspected object—a few words spoken, the rustling of his own coat sleeves or even his own breathing. A change in the reflecting surface also may make a difference in the sound, which some are cute enough to perceive and interpret. I have known a blind man discover on entering a drawing-room door that the light lace curtains used in summer at the windows at the far side of the room had given place to winter ones of thicker material. The fact was disclosed to him by the various unavoidable little noises he made in coming in, and he at once remarked upon the change that had been effected. Another blind friend, at whose house I have often stayed, could tell by the sound on his way upstairs at night, whether the venetian blind on the staircase window was drawn or not. If it were not (which he

knew when he came to the head of the flight, of stairs before crossing the landing to the window), he would stop and let it down. I noticed him do this once or twice, and after that I used often to ask him whether the blind were up or down, as we mounted the stairs together, and his answers were invariably right.

Mr. Whitehead's sense of surrounding objects was not only wonderfully keen, but he was also able to place reliance upon it to an extraordinary degree. He was fond of horses, and thought nothing of taking long rides in the country quite alone. During my visits we used to go out driving a good deal in their light wagonette, he, Mrs. Whitehead and myself. The roads we explored were the pleasant country roads of Worcestershire, bordered on either side by a stretch of grass, perhaps a dozen yards in width, where the hoards of migrant fruit-pickers would make their camps later on in the summer, and beyond the green belt of grass there was usually a hedge white with elder and may. When we were several miles from home, Mr. Whitehead, who, it should be observed was entirely blind, would often take the reins from his wife's hand and drive himself. This was a signal to the horse, who knew his master's touch, directly to quicken his pace, and we bowled swiftly along over the smooth well-kept roads. Mr. Whitehead sometimes discoursed about the metal used in their construction, and would point out the several varieties as we drove over them. noting the instant we passed from one to another by the different sound given out by the wheels, a difference which in some cases did not appeal at all to my unsophisticated ear. He was quite equal to the common emergencies of the road, and drove past the occasional vehicles we met entirely without aid. But what was more surprising still, he could tell when we came to the turns and crossways, although he had never been there on foot, and so, of course, had no knowledge of the place except what he had gathered from his seat in the carriage. At such times he guided the horse round the corners without a word or sign from his wife, as steadily as she could have done it herself. He could do this as well and as safely when we were outward bound, when the horse could not be supposed to know which of the two ways was the one intended, as on the homeward journey, when the animal would naturally choose the one that led towards his manger.

It seemed to me an amazing performance, and I asked how it was done. His reply was "I can hear the grass by the road side." Blind people are accustomed to put two and two together in a manner which sometimes appears almost miraculous to those who have the full use of their sight. Even among the blind, however, a gift equal to Mr. Whitehead's is rare, and I doubt whether any could attain to it who had not been blind from infancy, and trained their powers of observation from the earliest days.

There are, it seems, three ways by which an object can make itself known through the medium of sound waves. First, if it is emitting sound itself, as a hooting motor-car, or a person speaking. Secondly, if it intervenes so as to cut off part of the noise with which the air may be filled. A rather neat instance of this happened the other day. I was crossing a field by a path which ran beside a row of elms, while a train at some distance was travelling on a parallel course. The reverberation from my footsteps was drowned by the larger noise. Nevertheless each of the tall trunks seemed to say in turn, "Here am I, and I, and I," as it glided by between me and the rumbling train. Lastly, an object can declare itself by reflection, as we have already seen.

But besides these intimations there are others we receive from heat and cold. We feel the heat of the sun, and are aware of trees, posts, and buildings as we pass them by their intercepting its rays. A stationary vehicle in the street we may perceive either by the sound reflected from it, or by its screening from us part of the heat reflected from the road, or in both ways, and it is often hard to say which of the two it is. The human body is wonderfully susceptible to minute changes of temperature, particularly the face, forehead and ear. We are often aware of another person's nearness by the warmth from his face or person, and we know when we are getting close to the walls and open doorways in the house by feeling the heat of our own body reflected from the one, and not from the other. But all we are conscious of is a vague indescribable sense of nearness. An object can therefore make itself known by means of either waves of heat in the same three ways as it can by waves of sound in air, viz., by emission, interception and reflection.

Thus, Mr. Whitehead, on coming to the cross-ways, would probably have perceived

the warmth of the sun radiated from the side roads, as well as the increased resonance of the noises made by his horse and carriage. This would have created a contrast with the coolness and the deadness to sound of the grass borders between which we had previously been driving, and so notice was given him when to turn. But whether he was aided by reflected heat from his own person in the case of the venetian blind, or by feeling the cold night air through the glass when the blind was not down, or whether it was purely a matter of sound, it would be impossible to say without making experiments to test.

The ear itself, as an organ for the perception of heat, should not be overlooked. In my own case I find that if one's hand, or a hot poker, is held up a short distance away. it is more readily detected by the ear, when brought opposite to it, than by any part of the face or forehead which it may be caused to confront, the warmth seeming to invade the delicate membrane lining the external passages of the ear and even the drum-skin, and so helping to convey that very intimate yet vague feeling of nearness. Blind people commonly, I think, turn the head somewhat, so as to bring one ear forward, when an obstacle is suspected to be in front of them, and some habitually carry the head in this position. This may be to set the best hearing ear on the watch, at the same time keeping their noses free from disagreeable contingencies, but probably also to bring the ear into use as a thermoscope.

In finding their way about blind people also practice the arts of the Boy Scout, taking note of all kinds of unconsidered trifles which may give them a grasp of their position with regard to places and things. Among these trifles may be counted currents of air betokening open doorways and spaces, local smells, such as those from the shops of chemists and ironmongers, carriage entries and other inequalities in the pavement, the wheel-marks and camber and arching of the road. These last are of great assistance. They are to the blind man what the lines of latitute and longitude are to the mariner, and enable him to steer a straight course on the road, and to pass even motor-cars without danger. Bicycles, being so silent and sudden and so nimbly steered, he usually leaves to take care of themselves. This may be safely done, provided that the blind person makes it clear to the rider what course he means to pursue, and sticks to it steadily. The clatter of more

remote vehicles and pedestrians shows where other streets debouch upon the one he is in, and occasional cries and noises from elsewhere acquaint him with the geography of the district around. All this, however, requires continued attention and recollectedness on his part; for if the mind is allowed to wander and become absorbed in thought or in casual conversations, the thread of memory, which has wound in and out from the start to the point where he now stands, is broken, and he may wake up to find himself lost. And it is astonishing how suddenly and how completely he can be lost, even in quite a little space of ground that he knows well.

FREDERICK M. WEST

LEAD ME

Lead me: I can but touch The things you see; The flowers, the waving fields, Were once for me, But now they seem a dream Of long ago, And where my restless feet Ran to and fro. The winding paths Now darkened go. Yet linger In my memory The wild flowers That God made for me, Those happy, joyous days When I could see. I know their fragrance On the air. And trembling touch them Here and there : And in the darkness Of my night The birds still thrill me With delight; My Nightingales They'll ever be ; Pray they may always Sing for me.

Arthur Laurence Bolton

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RESIGNATION OF MR. HEWITT

I T is with great regret that we record the resignation of Mr. J. H. Hewitt from his post as manager of the Workshops for Industrious Blind, Belfast, a position which he filled for no less than forty-two years. Mr. Hewitt had begun to feel himself unequal to the strain of business for some little time, and although the committee proposed that he should take a long holiday, he expressed himself as anxious that a younger man should relieve him from the burden of his position.

When Mr. Hewitt first came to the workshops these had been in existence for seven years, their inception having been in great measure due to the indefatigable labours of Miss Hobson. Thirty-two blind persons were employed at the workshops when Mr. Hewitt took office, whereas the number of blind persons connected with the institution in the year 1919 was 153, 106 men and 47 women. The wages and bonuses paid during the year 1919 amounted to £10,467. In addition there was paid the sum of £1,297 in sick allowances, pensions, and gratuities—a total of £11,764. Previous to the war, owing to want of funds, apprentices received no wages during their first year; now they receive 6s. per week, and whereas in the second and third years they were formerly paid 3s. and 4s. respectively per week, they now receive 12s. and 14s. respectively.

At their meeting held on the 4th of November, the committee of the workshops passed a resolution expressing to Mr. Hewitt their deep regret at his resignation and their appreciation of his long and faithful service. They also announced the appointment of Mr. George Sherman as manager of the workshops.

H. S.

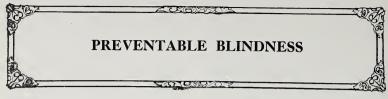
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THE Superintendent of the Workshops at St. Dunstan's would be glad to have a number of worn boots and shoes, in order to give the men under training practice in repairing. If at all possible these boots and shoes would be repaired for the use of some of the civilian blind of London.

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STUDY the thoughts of every man, and give them the freedom as your own.

Marcus Aurelius.





N The Blind Advocate for February 1921 we find an able article on "Preventable Blindness," written underthe pseudonym of "Veritas," by Mr. Ben Purse. This article is a review of a book written by the well-known oculist, Dr. N. Bishop Harman.

Mr. Purse has put before his readers some of the most pertinent conclusions arrived at by the

author, "in the hope," he says, "that it may stimulate interest in a subject that has received but scanty attention even from sociologists, while the general public have but the faintest conception of their duties and responsibilities in this connection."

When Dr. Harman wrote his book little or nothing was being done to investigate the causes of blindness, and he commences by stating that "considering the large number of references in ancient literature to the blind. and the universal appreciation of the loss blindness entails upon a man, it is remarkable that such small notice is made of the causes producing blindness or the time of life at which the loss of sight occurs." . . . This state of affairs is, of course, undergoing a radical change, and in view of the steps now being taken by the Commission appointed by the Ministry of Health to investigate and report on the causes of blindness and to suggest measures which might be taken for the prevention of blindness, Mr. Harman's book will be found to contain most illuminating matter. He has carefully examined conditions prevailing during the ages. Far into the 18th century ignorance existed as to the relationship of the diseases which engendered blindness, and the discovery (by Neisser in the year 1879) marked the beginning of a new era in their treatment.

We now quote Mr. Purse in extenso. Speaking of recent conditions, he says:—

"In the decennial census returns of England and Wales, account is taken of the number of blind. In 1891 the number of persons so afflicted was 23,467, and in 1901 the total was 25,317. Of these the number of those blind from childhood form nearly one-sixth, for there were so returned 4,005 in 1891 and 4,621 in 1901.

"If we compare the number of the blind with the total population in England and Wales, we find, in a population of 32,527,843 souls in 1901, 1 person in every 1,284 was blind, and 1 person in every 7,039 was blind from childhood.

"Anyone with experience of blind schools, where these children first come under critical examination, will agree without hesitation that, at the very lowest computation, one-third of them were blinded by ophthalmia neonatorum.

"In 1905 Mr. Harman published a detailed account of the causes of blindness in 255 school-children whom, under the auspices of the London County Council, he had examined in the two previous years. 'Of these 94 children, or 28.86 per cent., were blinded at birth by purulent ophthalmia-that is. more than one-third of the blindness amongst these school children was due to this cause. Of 399 children Dr. Harman discovered the huge total of 132 cases or 36.36 per cent. of the blindness arising from the ophthalmia of the new-born. 'If all those who, in later years, would pass as bad-sighted, and not blind were eliminated, the percentage of blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum would exceed 40 per cent.'

"Compare with this figure the blindness resulting from severe purulent inflammation occurring in the later years of life; there are only eight cases, or, if we include those blinded by smallpox, we get eleven cases, or 3 per cent. of the total.

"Dr. Harman, in the course of his work among the children in the London elementary

schools during the year 1903 to 1904, examined 22,000 children in the East of London in the districts of Hackney. This includes such poor districts as Hoxton and Bethnal Green and the better regions of Clapton. Amongst these children he found five with eves damaged by ophthalmia neonatorum. In 1905 to 1906 Dr. Harman examined in the same manner 18,000 children in the West of

London in the Marylebone district, and amongst these he found only two cases of eyes so damaged. The percentage of damaged eyes amongst these two groups of 40,000 children was 0.17 per cent.

"In the year 1907 Dr. Harman savs: 'I have examined the vision testing returns of my colleagues in this school - work. The returns covered 412.527 children, a huge total. Amongst these children there were 46 cases of damaged eyes, of a sort which appeared to be due to the result of early purulent ophthalmia. In many cases the history was clear and the diagnosis certain, but in others the condition of the eves was all there was to go upon. So amongst 412,500

school children the proportion of children showing signs of this disease was 0.0106 per cent.

"Mr. Harman writes: 'Almost all observers agree that the disease is much more frequent amongst the very poor and neglected than amongst all the rest of the community combined. My experience at the Belgrave Hospital for children is a good commentary on this opinion. For ten years the hospital was situate in Pimlico, a poor and circumscribed area between the River Thames, a

canal, and large railway-sidings. In that time 1.800 patients were seen. Of these, 128 were under twelve months and 58 were cases of purulent ophthalmia, 44 occurring at birth. Counting only these 44 as true ophthalmia neonatorum, we have 34.4 per cent, of the infants under twelve months affected with the disease. At the new hospital in Kennington patients are more numerous, but

of a better class. In a little over three vears there have been 1.120 cases. Of these 48 were under twelve months, and amongst them were only three cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, or only 6.2

per cent.

"Dr. Harman makes the following pointed observation at the conclusion of the chapter dealing with the causes of blindness: '. . in London, amongst every 100 children born, one child suffers from purulent inflammation of the eves in the first few days of life, and of every 2.000 children born, one child is blinded or partially blinded by this disease.' "



WORK is the best healer of sorrow. In grief or disappointment try hard work; it



ALDERMAN EDWIN JONES. THE BLIND MAYOR OF SWINDON

will not fail you. Max Müller.

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MESSRS. RUDALLE CARTE AND CO., Berners Street, London, W.1., have kindly offered to insert the names and addresses of blind Music Teachers in their Musical Directory, and Mr. H. C. Warrilow (Director of Music) at the National Institute for the Blind will be glad to hear from all those who would be glad to avail themselves of this opportunity.

EMPLOYMENT OF THE BLIND IN ENGINEERING SHOPS

INCE the war came on us, we have had the employment of the blind kept before us as a result of efforts on behalf of those who lost their sight in the service of the country. It is interesting to note that, quite apart from the after effects of the war, blind men and women have been employed in engineering workshops with a considerable degree of success. The Iron Age recently published an article on what has been done in Cleveland, Ohio, in this direction. It is stated that about seventy operations in engineering shops are now performed in that city by blind men and women. These include the operation of machine tools. including broaching machines, drills, grinding machines, lathes, punching machines, stamps, spot welders, nut-facing machines and so on.

On bench work such hands have been employed on cleaning castings, nutting bolts and packing. The electrical trades furnish a good many opportunities in, for instance, taping field coils, stator, magneto and other forms of coils; in the assembling of small electrical gear, such as switches, while in the assemblage of locks, radiators, sewing machine parts and other light work the blind are now successfully employed. Such employees are working at these selected jobs at the same piece work rates as normal workers, and are making as much money in spite of the loss of this faculty. The blind worker is said to be steady and reliable. Their natural caution has resulted so far in an absence of accident.

Although the placing of such hands in engineering works naturally needs the most careful consideration in the selection of work and surroundings suited to their conditions, their sphere of labour is certainly not so limited as it was once deemed to be, while in output they have shown themselves capable, when well placed, of competing with and often exceeding the efforts of the ordinary hand. The results of Cleveland should encourage the study of this problem on this side in connection with our war cases.

Engineering.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

JANUARY, 1921

FICTION

Hawtrey's Deputy, 4 vols	H. Bindloss
Vixen, 9 vols	M. E. Braddon
Loitering Highway, 5 vols	Sophy Cole
Victory, 6 vols	J. Conrad
Trail of the Lonesome Pine, 5 vols.	J. Fox
Trimmed Lamps, 3 vols	O. Henry
Rough Road, 5 vols	W. J. Locke
Case of Miss Elliott, 4 vols	Baroness Orczy
*From Now On, 3 vols	F. L. Packard
Edge of Beyond, 5 vols	G. Page
Reef of Stars, 4 vols	Vere Stacpoole
Robert Elsmere, 14 vols	Mrs. H. Ward
Three's Company, 2 vols	May Wynne

MISCELLANEOUS

Human Personality, 12 vols.........F. W. H. Myers Personal Idealism, 7 vols. Oxford Philosophers (edited by G. H. Sturt)

Recollections of a Scottish Novelist, 4 vols.

T. B. Walford

MOON

The Four Feathers, 7 vols. A. E. W. Mason

FOREIGN

ESPERANTO

La Rozajo Ciumiljara M. Wagnells Lingvaj Respondoj dua Serio...... Dr. Zamenhof

MUSIC

* Stereotyped Books.

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the February Numbers

Progress.—Editor's Note—On Hazardous Service, Chapter II, by Mervyn Lamh (to be continued)— The Growth of the Speakership, by J. G. Swift MacNeil—A Niagara for Britann—Matters of the Moment—Our Prize Competitions—Garden Notes, by "Melipona" — Deaf-Blind Blessing Society— Music at the National Institute—"Vox Senectutis," by E. Le Breton Martin—The Question Box—Chess —Our Home Page—Advertisements

School Magazine.—The Peoples of the New Nations, by Hamilton Fyfe—Garibaldi, The Great Adventurer, from John's Landon's Weekly—The Psychology of the Lion, by Captain F. Webster, F.R.G.S.—If Life Wound up like a Clock?—Biography in Brief: Roger Bacon—The Smaller Planets, from My Magazine—Queries.—The Whispering Poplars (Poem), by Elizabeth Roberts MacDonald.

Comrades.—The Adventures of Sir Beaumains, 2, from
"Tales of the Homeland," by Lewis Marsh, M.A.
—A Frogging Expedition in Canada, by Lilian
Fawcett—Kings of the Air, from "Nature Stories
to tell to Children," by H. Waddingham Seers—
Teddy (Grade 1)—Puzzles—Answers to last month's
puzzles—The Hero, from The Sphere—Baby Seed
Song, by E. Nesbit.

Santa Lucia.—Courage of a Famous Man—The Clock that struck too soon and the Clock that struck thirteen—Invisible Child Guest of a Thousand Rich People—History Buried in Dust—The Pawn's Count: chapters 20–21 (to be continued) by E. Phillips Oppenheim—"Scrap of Paper" Chancellor—The Aeroplane and the Fishes—The Bath in Japan—Rarest of all known Substances—The Lemon of all work.

Braille Musical Magazine.—Our Tuners' Column— How a Gramophone Record is Made—Special Tools for Tuners—Notes and News Concerning the Blind —Music at the National Institute—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews; Insets: Song, "The Dreary Steppe" by Grechaninov; Piano: "Five Lyric Pieces" by A. J. Thompson.

HOMES FOR THE BLIND, PRESTON-

WANTED after Easter, HEAD MASTER (Certificated). Experience in teaching the hlind. Furnished apartments and board provided. Apply in writing, giving salary required, stating age, qualifications and previous experience, enclosing testimonials to T. R. JOLLY, Harris Orphanage, Fulwood, Preston.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OFTHE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping, Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes from Head Master, G. C. Brown, M. A.

The Literary Journal.—Editor's Note—The Green Cord, by K. T. Edmondson—The Haunts of Life—Civilisation and Decay—The Death of St. Martin, hy Hilaire Belloc—Recent Additions to the Massage Library—National Library for the Blind—The Crown Jewels—Heaven, Purgatory, Hell (Poem)—Reviews of Books.

The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.—Splints and Splintmaking (concluded)—Hysteria in Relation to Treatment—Official Notices—Report of the November-December Examinations—Massage Examination— Examination in Exercises (Blind Students only.)

The Hampstead.—Prince of the Palais Royal, by Max Pemberton—A Terror of the Seas—With a Judge on Circuit—Our Tars and their Prize Money —Should Letters be Shared, by Gerald Court—Best Stories.

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Mantle of the East (continued)—When Cocca was Barred—Father of Fountain Pens—Where Curfew Still Rings—Tapping the Rubber Tree—Precious Parts—Trees that Own Themselves.

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Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mines of the world" sinteresting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year, Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

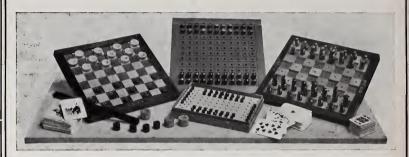
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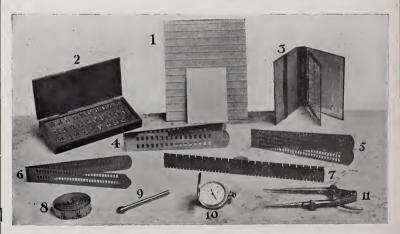
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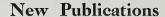


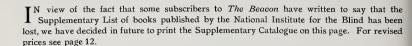
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND





Music-continued

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EDUCATIONAL

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4729 Ditto ditto ditto ,, 2 16 0	by Bar) 2 0 4789 "Andante No. 3 in E minor," by Smart
ESSAYS AND BIOGRAPHY	(Bar by Bar) 2 0
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	Piano-
4732 " " " 3 14 8	4790 T. C. L. Studies, Junior Division Book I
4733 ", ", 4 14 8 4776 Essays in Romantic Literature	4790 T. C. L. Studies, Junior Division, Book I, Groups 1 to 6 (Bar by Bar) 4 1
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4777 Ditto ditto ditto , 2 16 0 4778 , , , , , 3 16 0	4792 "Progressive Studies for the More
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MISCELLANEOUS	4800 Ditto ditto (Piano Part) (Bar by Bar) 8 1
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Rhythmic Movement (Morley & Jones) 0 6	4801 "Two Thoughts" (Two Short Songs),
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4767 Sermons Preached at Brighton (Robertson) (Carnegie) Vol. 1 14 8	Compass, C to F') 2 0
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THE BEACON A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. V.—No. 52.

APRIL. 1921.

PRICE 3D.
35. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

EDITORIAL



HERE can be no doubt that, from the point of view of publication, the blind composer has been very seriously handicapped, and it is therefore hoped that the National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers will substantially contribute to the removal of this disadvantage. It is, moreover, confidently anticipated that it will prove a stimulus to

further creative effort, for blindness is no bar to creative output in music; on the contrary, in that it compels greater attention to the world of sound, it should prove an incentive to musical expression. Doubtless the difficulty of getting music put into staff notation and the further difficulty of getting it published have been discouraging factors, for even the most ardent musicians will not care to go on producing with only the slightest prospect of getting their music heard beyond the immediate circle of their own friends. Few people realise to the full the magnitude of the difficulties experienced in transcription. In the first place, the majority of blind musicians prefer to make a Braille copy of their compositions, either a complete copy, which may be used for the publication of the work in Braille, or merely a sketch from which to dictate to a sighted copyist. There are, however, a few who have a sufficiently clear mental picture of their music to dictate it to the copyist, and we have known at least one case in which a sighted musician, having heard the music played by the composer, made a staff notation copy, the work being subsequently checked by the copyist playing it to the composer.

Such able helpers are not numerous, and blind composers often experience great difficulty in finding a more or less reliable worker who will transcribe their music into staff notation; many may be able to play accurately from a sighted copy, but only few can read the notes aloud reliably, and the percentage of those who can set out music in a form likely to be acceptable to a publisher is even smaller. Again, it is by no means generally understood that a very great difference exists between the presentation of a piece of music to the finger and to the eye; the procedure must needs be different in the two cases.

A thorough knowledge of Braille music possessed by very few sighted people, even among those intimate for years with the reading and writing of Braille literature—is essential to the understanding of these differences, but one instance may be given. In a Braille transcription the use of accidentals varies from staff notation procedure—though the latter is by no means always uniformit being desirable, from a finger point of view, to use more accidentals in some bars, and less in others, than in the sighted copy. This being so, it might easily happen that in dictating from Braille some accidentals might be omitted which should appear in the staff copy. This is only one case in illustration-in many other instances, such as in the grouping of notes, it is difficult, if not almost impossible, for the blind musician to know if his music is presented to the eye in the most readable manner.

It is not that the blind do not know staff notation; it is familiar to many blind people, especially to music teachers, but as they are unable to see the manuscript of their music, they do not possess first-hand knowledge of the setting-out. The Institute is fortunate, therefore, in having secured the services of Mr. Edward Watson, who provides thoroughly well set out copies for the publishers. Mr. Watson has been for many years musical editor to a firm of music publishers; he has an intimate knowledge of Braille music, being the author of "Braille Music Notation"; he is, moreover, a keen enthusiast, and spares no pains in preparing manuscript copies and reading through proofs.

Messrs. Ryalls & Jones, of Liverpool, the publishers of the National Institute Edition, have offered very generous terms to the blind composer. The Institute is prepared to render financial assistance where such is required, and every effort is being made to bring the edition to the notice of the trade, the profession and the general public. A large number of firms have already subscribed, many to the whole list of twenty-three items which are contained in the first series. Among London firms who have subscribed may be mentioned Messrs, Keith Prowse, Messrs. Murdoch & Murdoch, and Messrs. Walsh Holmes. Copies of music from the edition have been asked for by the Royal Academy of Music, the Guildhall School of Music, and Trinity College, and several papers, such as The Music Student, Musical News, Musical Opinion, and the Daily Telegraph, have given most favourable notices. Five numbers have already been published, and several others will be ready before The Beacon is in the hands of our readers. Those already published are: Piano, "Five Lyric Pieces" (A. J. Thompson), "Noel" (Wolstenholme), "Rondo Scherzando" (F. W. Priest); Song, "Echo" (Wolstenholme); Organ, "Minuet Antique" (Watling).

The other composers on the first list are: Horace F. Watling, Sinclair Logan, Hubert G. Oke, Alfred Wrigley, H. V. Spanner, Llewellyn Williams, and T. G. Osborn.

It may be noted that practically all the composers on this first list hold musical degrees or diplomas, and though this in itself is not a guarantee either of excellence or of originality, both these qualities will be found conspicuous in the music in question, for a very high standard is being maintained.

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THERE is nothing that makes men rich and strong but that which they carry inside of them. Wealth is of the heart, not of the hand.

J. Milton.

A BLIND ORGANIST

WE have pleasure in recording the appointment of a blind musician, Mr. T. B. Moyes, to the post of organist in a church in Scotland. In competing for this post at Glasgow Mr. Moyes played the Schiller March and the Bach great G minor Fugue, with the result that he was placed on the list of competitors for the post mentioned above. Our readers will be interested to hear that, at the urgent request of Mr. Moves. the Schiller March, which occupied thirteen large-sized pages, was most expeditiously put into Braille by the Music Department of the National Institute for the Blind. The work was commenced one afternoon and despatched to Mr. Moyes on the following day, thus enabling him to learn it in time for the competition.

With regard to his appointment, Mr. Moyes writes:—

"You will be interested, I am sure, to learn that the transcribing of that march had fairly auspicious results for me personally. After playing it and the Bach great G minor Fugue in Glasgow I was placed on the short leet for an organist vacancy in one of the really fine suburban churches. Following a fairly comprehensive examination, including organ playing, transposition, modulation, improvisation, harmonization of a melody, ear tests, etc., and choir training, I was invited to take Sundayservices. I obtained highest marks in the examination tests, and the candidate who came out second also took a Sunday, so that in the event of a vote being demanded the decision would rest between two candidates. After I had taken my services the office-bearers agreed to recommend to the congregation that I be appointed, and at the annual business meeting of the church on the ensuing evening I was appointed unanimously, without any vote being necessary.

"I commenced duties last Thursday, and consider myself fortunate in having secured a really excellent place. I have received the most unbounded kindness and courtesy from everyone with whom I have come into contact, and everything possible is being done to make my work happy and successful. The minister is one of the very best, and has actually put himself to much trouble to secure pupils for me and has also granted me the

use of the church hall for teaching purposes until the autumn, when I shall become resident in the district.

"I have a senior mixed choir, a junior choir and a musical association—a sort of small choral society which undertakes cantatas, selections from oratorios and the like at Easter and Christmas. The salary, by the way, is

£100 a year to begin with. There are 1.200 members in the congregation. What pleases me most about the whole affair is the fact that after I had taught and conducted the musical association the last remaining tissue of prejudice was completely removed: and it is something to the credit of the congregation, I think, that they had verylittle prejudice at any time. Fred Turner* acted as Examiner, and was splendid. While acting impartially with the six candidates on the leet, I have a feeling that he did his best to make me feel at my ease, and

was very considerate in the matter of playing over the melody for harmonization three times till I knew it thoroughly. He was delighted that I could do the ear tests—single notes and chords, diatonic and chromatic—and shouted out 'Full marks for this test.'

"I have been appointed to act as adjudicator of candidates in the vacancy in my old

* Mr. Fred Turner, Organist of Wellington Church, Glasgow, a contemporary of Mr. Hollins at the Royal Normal College, Norwood. church in Stirling here, and am being well paid for the work. The Session are giving me a commendatory excerpt from their minute book, which the minister says will be as good as three characters. I have not yet seen it, but it will be most helpful, I daresay. I have had splendid gifts from the choir, and the congregation are arranging something in the

same nature, I believe.

"Pardon my writing at such length. I felt, however, you would be interested to know of mv promotion and that it had been attained partly through your good offices in brailling for me. also that the element of prejudice, which is frequently an insurmountable barrier, was primarily inoperative and finallydispelled as regards Stonelaw U. F. Church, Rutherglen, my new church.

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THE death is announced of Miss Jessie Cameron Henderson, who for over thirty

superintendent of the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum and School. Miss Henderson retired from her position as lady superintendent somewhat more than a year ago. She was highly respected by all and had gained the affection of those amongst whom she worked.

A MOTION was made in the House of Lords by Lord Hylton that Lord Merthyr, who is blind, should be allowed to record his vote in divisions while sitting in the Chamber instead of having to pass through the lobbies.



Illustrated Chronicle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
MR. JOHN SHAW, A BLIND BILLIARD-MARKER





HE annual meeting of the Council of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53 Victoria Street, Westminster, on Saturday, March 19th, when the annual report of the Committee was adopted.

The College of Teachers of the Blind was established fourteen years ago, with the object of

generally raising the status of teachers of the blind and of placing the instruction of the blind upon a higher level. A yearly examination takes place in the Spring, the subjects for examination including a theoretical and practical knowledge of Braille, arithmetic for the blind, the practice of teaching, and the theory of education as applied to the blind, together with one other subject, to be selected by the candidate from a list which includes infant teaching, physical training, recreation, Braille music, typewriting, Braille shorthand, centre cane work, chair caning, woodwork, hand sewing, hand knitting, machine sewing and machine knit ing.

It will be seen that the examination is a fairly severe test of efficiency, and we note with pleasure that last May eight out of elevencandidates were successful in obtaining the College certificate. Since the foundation of the College 175 candidates have been successful in obtaining this certificate.

We note with interest that the attention of the committee having been called to the difficulties experienced by blind candidates when sitting for various public examinations, Dr. A. Eichholz, C.B.E., H.M. Inspector, was successful in inducing the Secondary Schools Examination Council to concede the following points:—

(1) No objection will be raised to the examination of blind candidates in any convenient centre.

(2) Candidates will be allowed to use typewriters, provided that they are in a separate room to sighted candidates. (3) The question papers can be Brailled beforehand, and Brailling be done at the office of the examining body.

(4) Blind candidates need not show the

working of their sums.

Any extra expense incurred by the use of a separate room and by the Brailling of the papers would have to be borne by the candidates.

As regards salaries, the committee have been in communication with the Association of Teachers of the Blind on the question of standardising, as far as possible, the salaries of teachers in schools for the blind. A joint committee of the Association and the College was appointed, and their recommendations, given below, have been approved by both bodies, and have been already adopted by several school authorities:—

"Where academic and professional qualifications are equal, there should be no difference in the salaries paid to the sighted and blind teachers.

"Non-resident teachers should receive, according to the various grades and subjects taught, the salaries in force under the Education authority for the district in which the school or institution is situate.

"Resident teachers should be paid at the same cash rate as non-resident teachers, and in reckoning any deduction to be made from the salary for board and lodging full allowance should be made for any out-of-school duties required.

"Where the teacher holds the diploma of the College of Teachers of the Blind an additional minimum salary of £20 should be paid."

The subject of craftsmanship is a matter of very great importance, and has received the close attention of a sub-committee appointed to consider and report on this subject. In their recommendations concerning the position of craft teachers, distinction is drawn between teachers who are now at work and those who are to be employed in

the future. With regard to existing teachers, it is recommended that only those approved by the Board of Education, including those who have at least five years' successful experience, be recognised as qualified instructors.

In all doubtful cases the teacher should be required to take a course of training before

recognition.

As to future teachers, the Committee are of opinion that craft teachers may be recruited from whatever quarter the necessary combination of technical skill and general education may be found. With regard to the training in the art of teaching, the Committee suggest that this should be obligatory on all

future teachers and uponall existing teachers who have not had at least five years' satisfactorvexperience. The Committee are anxious to emphasize the educational purpose of all institutions and schools for the blind.and therefore they desire to see all craft work in such establishments directed to an educational end and free from any

commercial purpose. "The teaching of craft work," they state, "will not assume its proper place in our educational system either for sighted or for blind pupils until it is recognised that teachers in this branch are performing work no less valuable than that done by teachers of literature, mathematics or general form subjects.'

It should be mentioned here that qualified teachers of sighted children who wish to become qualified teachers of the blind should communicate with the Hon, Registrar, College of Teachers of the Blind, c o National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1, from whom syllabus and copies of previous examination papers may also be obtained.

_______ NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

W. AUSTIN MEMORIAL READING COMPETITION

T is hoped to hold the second meeting of the E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition at the National Library during the latter half of May.

Unseen passages will again be read, and prizes awarded for fluency and ease of

diction, as last year.

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary, 18 Tufton Street,

Westminster. S.W.1, before the end of April. in order that detailed arrangements for the Competition may be made.

Itisintended to divide the competitors into two classes. to consist of:-

(a) Those who are accustomed to reading aloud.

to whom reading aloud is a comparatively

(b) Those new thing.

Competitors,

when sending in their names, are asked to state in which class they wish to enter, giving reasons, but it will be at the discretion of the judges at the preliminary reading to adjust these entries, should it be found necessary.

The Rev. H. E. C. Lewis, as first prize winner in last year's contest, will serve on the committee for one year.

The committee consists of :-

The Rt. Hon. Lord Shaw of Dunfermline, Stuart Johnson, Esq., Miss D. A. Pain, W. H. Dixson, Esq., M A., E. Le Breton Martin, Esq., H. Royston, Esq., and Miss O. I. Prince, secretary.

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HE is the rich man, and enjoys the fruits of riches, who summer and winter for ever can find delight in his own thoughts.



IN THE LIBRARY AT ST. DUNSTAN'S, BRIGHTON

OBITUARY Mr. Edmund Sedding

T is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Edmund Sedding, F.R.I.B.A., and an active member of the Campaign Staff of the National Institute for the Blind.

The son of an architect, Mr. Sedding started his career as an articled pupil to an uncle who followed the same profession. In 1884 he gained the Royal Academy medal for measured work, and in the following year the Royal Institution of British Architects' medal for measured drawings. Four of the best drawings, namely, the steeples of Grantham and St. Magnus, London Bridge (built by Sir Christopher Wren in 1676), are hung on the walls of the black and white room of the South Kensington Museum. In 1886 he took the English travelling studentship for design at the Royal Academy, and in 1887 was awarded a special Pugin medal for sketches. On the death of his uncle, in 1891, Mr. Sedding set up for himself at Plymouth.

Mr. Sedding's work as an architect is well known in the West of England, where, in Devonshire and Cornwall, many a parish church contains evidence of his great imaginative and artistic gifts. Besides the restoration of many churches, Mr. Sedding was responsible for several beautiful designs of war memorials. His most important architectural work was the new cathedral at Dunedin, New Zealand, of which the west front is particularly imposing.

Much of Mr. Sedding's professional work came to an end during the war, and it was in October, 1915, that he joined the Provincial Campaign Staff of the National Institute for the Blind at Cardiff. His enthusiasm for the work was augmented by the fact that he was then himself practically blind.

A fellow-worker writes of him :-

"His reputation as an ecclesiastical architect, his charm of manner, his delightful conversation, with its pervading humour, his out-of-the-way information and quaint, original points of view, gave him ready entrance to the most exclusive country houses, where he never failed definitely to introduce the work of the National Institute for the Blind and St. Dunstan's.

"The National Institute has lost an attractive personality, who did not look upon his blindness as a calamity, but as an incentive to use his talents in the service of others. The members of the Campaign Staff, blind and sighted, will always cherish the memory of their colleague, who never made an enemy or lost a friend."

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GRADE 14

THE Matilde Ziegler Magazine, which is published monthly in New York by the Matilde Ziegler Publishing Company for the Blind, has now adopted the Revised Braille Grade I½. We note that in the March number of this magazine the article entitled "Publisher's Chat" is printed in Grade I, i.e., without contractions, whilst the remainder of the magazine is printed in Grade I½.

In the section devoted to "Current Events" we read with interest the following

paragraph:-

"At the Perkins Institution for the Blind. Boston, Mass., an effort is being made to give to the blind, as has been done by the National Institute in England, small copies of books which readers may carry in their pockets; the price of these books will probably be ten cents. each. The following three in Revised Braille have been brought out recently in this pocket size: Dickens' 'A Child's Dream of Star,' Hubbard's 'A Message to Garcia,' and Whittier's 'The Hero,' The Perkins Press has also issued in Revised Braille Latimer's Primer for Adults, which will be very helpful to any learning Revised Braille Grade It; this book, however, is not in the pocket size. It may be purchased from Perkins or borrowed from the libraries.'

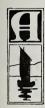
As regards the use of Grade I½ in a book called "The Time Spirit," Mr. Merrick, a member of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind, writes as follows:—

"I have carefully looked through it and tried to estimate its value as compared to Grade II. It is, of course, quite easy to read: any little hindrance the British reader might find at first sight from the signs for capital letters, etc., soon disappears by practice. It occupies, I estimate, some thirteen to fifteen per cent. more space than Grade II, about two per cent, of this being due to the use of the capital sign, and the rest distributed fairly equally between letter-groups, abbreviated words and non-use of our close-up way of writing 'to,' 'by,' 'into,' 'and,' etc. A little space is lost by the non-use of lettergroups where the printer thinks they cross syllables, though ideas on this point vary considerably in England and America."



"THE FRIEND OF THE BLIND"





SIGN of the increasing interest which is being taken all over the world in the welfare of the blind is observable in the publication of a French monthly review, entitled "L'Ami des Aveugles," ("The Friend of the Blind") which made its appearance for the first time on February 15th of this year. A copy of the first number is now in our hands, and

we may say that the little paper gives promise of forming a valuable addition to the literature circulated on behalf of the

blind community.

In a Foreword the Editors state the aim of the paper, which is, briefly, as far as possible to eradicate the false and sentimental ideas concerning the blind which still prevail among a certain number of individuals, and to present to the public a faithful picture of the blind man in relation to the normal world. The management hopes that the French public will sufficiently respond to this appeal to its generosity, and that the paper may be circulated gratuitously amongst members of the French blind community. This "Foreword" or "Editorial" is followed by a number of interesting articles. Amongst these we find the first instalment of a serial article dealing with the general condition of the blind, in which, amongst other interesting matter, the writer remarks that the fact that the blind man may always count upon sympathy and pity is in itself injurious to the proper development of his moral and intellectual faculties. The writer pleads for a union of the blind all over the world, and for the dissemination of literature for the blind in all countries.

Many of our readers will heartily endorse the opinions expressed in an article on "Books About the Blind," of which we quote the following:—"The majority of authors who write about blind men let loose the reins of their imaginations on this subject. They depict them as wretched and pitiful objects—in this wise pandering to the sentimentality of readers, who would find it difficult to imagine a blind person other than a waif and stray of humanity. And so it is with no little anxiety that we hear the news that Mr. So-and-So, the author or journalist, has written about a blind man. We at once imagine the kind of figure he will have depicted, and the disastrous effect which this composition will produce on the minds of millions of readers, now confirmed in their previous opinions on the subject. If the blind possessed the right to band themselves together into a syndicate of blind workers. they could doubtless take action and inform these gentlemen who deface paper with ink that much evil may be wrought by means of a pen wielded by a writer ignorant of his subject.

To represent as quasi-imbeciles those who are already sufficiently handicapped by the ignorance of a public which refuses to recognise them as normal beings, will surely help to injure their moral and material interests, whereas they are entitled to receive every possible help in their fight for the esteem and confidence of the public. Let our writers remember that it is very difficult for a blind man to obtain work from an employer who is ever inclined to think that his sightless employé will never be anything but a source of worry and annoyance to him and will never produce any but faulty work. Let them cease to associate blindness with senility or imbecility, and they will then no longer be our friends in the manner of the bear of the fable." In illustration of the foregoing remarks, the writer gives a résumé of a story which appeared recently in a French newspaper. We quote the following passage, in which the author is speaking of a French nurse who has married a blinded soldier:-

"When she married him, she was not aware of the task she was undertaking:—to guide this sick man, not to leave his side for one moment, to dress him, to wait upon him as if he were a child—all this soon appeared to her to be drudgery unbearable.

Nothing but a mother's love can accustom itself to a state of such slavery." It is indeed astonishing to find that opinions such as these concerning the blind are still extant.

Further on in the paper we find a detailed account of the Technical and Parliamentary Committee for the Amelioration of the lot of the Blind in France. This Committee was formed in the year 1910, by M. Albert Thomas, then Parliamentary deputy for the Seine, and Paul Rémy, a member of the Permanent Committee. Its object was that of studying technically questions concerning the blind, and of causing measures of improvement to be brought up in

Parliament or before Administrative Associations. Their methods have proved eminently satisfactory, and the Committee is responsible for numerous reforms, amongst which is that of a reduced postal rate for the blind France, and free transport on tramways and motor - omnibuses, a blind worker and his guide being

permitted to travel on one ticket.

This little paper further contains an article on Jean Freysinnier, who died ten years ago, and is known as a champion for the cause of the French blind, a description of the Optophone, and an account of the study of Esperanto.

There is also the first instalment of a story by M. René de Buxeuil, the manager of the paper, whilst inset we find a serial by two blind authors, M. de Buxeuil and M. Paul Rémy, the chief editor. Details concerning reduced postage for the blind, a variety of advertisements, an amusing anecdote, these are other features of an admirable little paper, to which we wish all success and prosperity.

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WHAT else can joy be but diffusing joy. Byron.

A FANCY DRESS DANCE

VERY enjoyable little Fancy Dress Dance was given at the Women's Residential Club of the National Institute for the Blind. 38-40 Langham St., on February 23. Residents and guests celebrated the fourth anniversary of the opening of the club in merry mood. Most of them appeared in fancy costume, some of the dresses being of great originality and beauty. Prizes were awarded for the best costumes, the prize-

winners being

as follows :---(1) Miss Eva Noble (Fortune Teller); (2) Miss Lois Ellis (Early Victorian Lady): (3) Miss Martha Lloyd (Braille Outfit): (4) Miss Gladys Phillips (Egyptian Lady); (5) Miss Mabel Stagg (The Grand Ànnual).

There were also prizes for the visitors, the first being

gained by Miss Daisy Weatherly (Topsy); second, Miss Dodd (Charlady); and third, Miss Davidson (Golliwog).

The prizes were presented by Sir Arthur Pearson who, in a few well-chosen words, commended the social side of the club life and praised the originality and talent displayed in the dresses of the dancers. A vote of thanks was passed to the many friends who contributed to the evening's entertainment.



START some kind word on its travels. There is no telling where the good it may do D. W. Talmage. will stop.

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WHAT we can do for another is the test of power; what we can suffer for another is B. F. Westcott. the test of love.



FANCY DRESS AT THE WOMEN'S RESIDENTIAL CLUB, NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND



N the last number of *The Beacon* we dealt with an article by Mr. Purse which appeared in the February number of the *Blind Advocate*. This article consists of a review of a book on "Preventable Blindness," written by Dr. Bishop Harman. In the March number of the same paper we find a continuation of the subject. Mr. Purse is here dealing with

Dr. Harman's remarks on the Clinical Character of the Disease, and starts by

quoting his author as follows :-

"The eyes of every new-born babe are clean and wholesome. In every child just born this is the rule; exceptions to the rule are of extreme rarity. But in not a few cases, within a comparatively few hours from the birth of the child, the surfaces of the eye and its covering, the conjunctiva, become inflamed; the clean mucous lining of the lids and the globe become red, engorged with blood, and bathed with pus; the clear transparency of the front of the eye is threatened with disorder, and too often it succumbs, and the clear eye of the babe becomes for life a white, misshapen, sightless mass."

Dr. Harman says that the eyes of a young child are even more liable than those of an older child or of an adult to be contaminated with any septic material that may be conveyed to them. "As regards children under twelve months," says Mr. Purse, "Dr. Harman suggests that most of them when brought to the hospitals are suffering from some form of inflammation of the eyes.

Among the patients of the Middlesex Hospital at the time the book was written, 85.5 per cent. were suffering from varieties of conjunctivitis. At the Belgrave Hospital the proportion was 79.5 per cent. And we are further told that of these cases of conjunctivitis more than one-third were cases of ophthalmia neonatorum.

Mr. Purse next quotes Dr. Harman :-

"To us, ophthalmia neonatorum means for the most part a definite disease produced by a definite organism, the gonococcus of Neisser. There are many cases of inflammation occurring in the early days of life, produced by accidental contamination of the eyes by organisms, but unconnected with the incident of birth; these inflammations may simulate in some degree the true ophthalmia of the new-born, but it is rarely that such cannot be detected by clinical examination alone, while to the test of the microscope the differentiation is conclusive. To most then, the term ophthalmia neonatorum connotes a purulent conjunctivitis due to a gonorrhoeal infection of the eyes at the time of or near to birth."

In the majority of cases the disease commences on the second or third day of life, and develops rapidly. In this connection Dr. Harman observes that a case in its early condition is rarely seen at the hospitals. In many instances the child is brought there too late, the cornea being already irretrievably damaged. Discussing the vexed problem of treatment, he says:—

"In all cases of inoculation with the gonococcus the child should be taken into hospital to ensure continuous and efficient treatment. Should cases come under our care with clear, undamaged corneæ, we ought to expect a complete cure in all but a fractional percentage. However good our treatment may be in its planning, it can only be really effective if its carrying out is equally well arranged."

Mr. Purse next discusses Dr. Harman's versus on the treatment of the disease and his remarks on the prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum—a disease which, our readers may be interested to hear, is now scheduled under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889. "Already," says Mr. Purse, "we have ample evidence of the value of the practical suggestions made by this writer and other eminent ophthalmologists."

THE NEW YORK "NEWS LETTER"



N the February number of the New York News Letter we find an account of a report recently issued concerning conditions among the blind in Asiatic Turkey, where an appalling amount of eye disease, especially of a contagious nature, is prevalent. "These are due," says the report, "to several factors, which in order of their importance, are the dirty habits of the people

and their utter lack of knowledge of sanitation and hygiene, the prevalence of flies, the amount of dust due to the dry nature of most of the country (there being little or no rainfall for eight months of the year), and the irritating influence of the intense light. As one travels southward from Constantinople the amount of eye disease increases, until in the lowlands of Syria it becomes extremely prevalent. The heat becomes greater, there is more dust, and flies are innumerable. One may see infants' and children's faces so black with flies that their features are indistinguishable. Epidemics of violent ophthalmia sweep over the country. These epidemics affect many people of all ages, but above all the children, who more readily spread the contagion from one to the other by their closer contact in their play and in the crowded conditions of their living. It is a streptococcus or gonococcus invasion, or both combined, and very virulent. Ulceration and perforation of the cornea take place in a short time, sometimes in forty-eight hours. When the disease subsides, the tension of the eye produces bulging. If complete, the eye is sightless, or at best only light perception remains.

"To meet these fearful conditions Dr. Arthur S. Tenner, a New York ophthalmologist, was sent to Aleppo, Syria. Eye clinics were established; 60 per cent. of the clinic cases were found to be suffering from trachoma in advanced form, but many were cured by operation. A large number of patients, especially children, had suffered

from previous attacks of ophthalmia, which had left them completely blind from opaque scars. In such cases, according to the account, an iridectomy was done—a new pupil (new window, the Armenians quaintly call it) was made. One hundred and four cases were operated and sight restored in all but four.

"An eye hospital has been established, under the Turkish name of Khasta-Khana, literally sick house, but the people insist upon calling it the health house."

The News Letter also calls attention to the January number of the American Journal of Public Health, which contains some remarks on the vast differences in the types of occupational diseases prevalent in various countries. One writer states that in America there is very little evidence of miners' nystagmus, and believes that the difference is due to the fact that American soft coal mines are not actually gassy to a dangerous extent; hence miners are not obliged to work under the poor illumination afforded by the safety lamps required by law in the British mines.

The same issue contains a brief extract of a report on "Eye-strain in Motion Picture Theatres," summing up the results of the investigations of a committee composed of representatives of the British ophthalmologists, the Illuminating Engineering Society and the Physiological Society. Among the points carefully considered are the following: proximity and position of seats in relation to the picture, determined by angular measurement; flicker; worn films; instability of projecting apparatus; faulty manipulation; brightness of the pictures, depending upon the quality of the screen and general illumination of the hall.

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EDUCATION is the art of drawing out of a man all that is best and most useful in him, so that his powers may be employed with advantage to the community, and to himself as a member thereof.

H. A. L. Fisher.

RETIREMENT OF MR. WILSON

WE regret to record the impending retirement of Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, after nearly forty years service. Toenumerate his interests in the cause of the blind would be to give a history of the blind during that long period. For it is difficult to recall any forward policy in which he has not taken a leading part; indeed, there is no phase of work for the sightless in which Mr. Wilson has not been very actively interested.

Mr. Wilson was appointed the first Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind in February, 1882, and has held that position since then without intermission. He is a trustee, chairman, and fellow of the College of Teachers of the Blind, and is either occupying or has occupied the position of:—

Member of the Departmental Committee appointed by the President of the Local Government Board to consider the condition of the Blind. Vice-chairman and chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind. Chairman of the Union of Unions of Societies for the Blind; the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union of Societies for the Blind; the Federation Board of London Workshops for the Blind; the Special Committee to consider the Bill for the Education and Employment of the Blind; the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind and the Federation of Libraries for the Blind.

Mr. Wilson organised, on the initiative and under the ægis of Gardner's Trust, the Conference of the Blind, held in London in 1902. He was Chairman of the Conference Committees in 1905, 1908, 1911, and 1914, and at the committee held in 1905 he read a paper on the "Problem of the Defective Blind and its Best Solution." In 1908 he delivered the inaugural address and opened the debate on "Pensions for the Blind," and in 1914 he read a paper on "The Work of the Unions of Societies for the Blind in England and and Wales." He also attended the conferences held at York in 1883, at Amsterdam in 1885, at Paris in 1889, and at the Royal Normal College in 1890.

Amongst his many other activities he has for twenty-two years undertaken the editorship of The Blind, a quarterly magazine recording events of interest in connection with the blind. He is the author of a pamphlet on "Information with regard to Institutions, Societies and Classes for the Blind in the United Kingdom." First published in 1887, this pamphlet is now in its fifth edition and 12,000 copies have been printed.

Readers will be interested to hear that "in appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him during the past forty years in the interests and welfare of the Blind community," Mr. Wilson was last month presented with the Honorary Freedom and Livery of the Clothworkers' Company. On his retirement from the Vice-Chairmanship of the new Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind Dr. Addison wrote a most appreciatory letter in which he said: "The loss of your advice and assistance in the new problems arising under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, will be much felt, but I am sure you will have great pleasure in thinking that the long, devoted, and able service which you have rendered to the blind and which has secured for you the affectionate esteem of all who have come into contact with you, has borne fruition in that Act.'

We cordially endorse Dr. Addison's remarks. Our regrets must be tempered by the thought that Mr. Wilson is retiring with the knowledge that a long and honorable public career entails a well deserved and let us hope pleasant evening of life.

That his moral support may always be forthcoming in the cause that we have all so much at heart is our earnest and heart-felt wish.

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY

The following have been added to the Massage Library:—

The Defensive Value of Mucus Formation, by F. G. Crookshank. One vol. (pocket).

Spinal Therapeutics, by John Keith, M.A. One vol. (pocket).

Psycho-Pathology and Dissociation, by Dr. W. Brown. Two vols. (pocket).

The Physiology of Massage, by Beatrice M. Copestake. One vol. (pocket).

Treatment of Dislocations and Fractures, by Beatrice M. Copestake. Two vols. (pocket).

REVISED PRICES OF EMBOSSED BOOKS

THE Council of the National Institute for the Blind, having had under consideration the cost and selling price of embossed books published by the Institute in the Braille and Moon types, recently decided that the selling price must be increased in order to cover the cost of paper, printing and binding. The cost of producing a bound Braille

or Moon volume is approximately 16s., at which price it is sold to all countries outside the British Empire. The blind residing in the British Isles are entitled to a discount of 75 per cent., and those living in the British colonies and dependencies to a discount of 50 per cent. A book costing 16s. will therefore be priced 8s. for residents in the British colonies and dependencies, and 4s. for residents in the British Isles. The same rate of discount will be allowed on all pamphlets. A new catalogue is in

course of preparation and will be issued shortly. So far as the British Isles are concerned no charge will be made for postage and the new price obtains as from April 1st.

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USE what talents you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there but those which sang best.

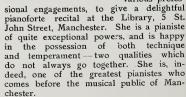
NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND, NORTHERN BRANCH

ON Saturday, March 5th, a large company of Northern readers had the privilege of attending a Dramatic and Humorous Recital given by Mr. James Bernard, the well-known elocutionist and two of his pupils, Miss Kathleen Kevill and Master Robert Donat.

The programme, which was admirably arranged, consisted mainly of selections from

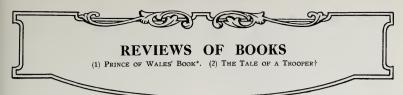
the English classics, together with some modern items, such as Alfred Noves' " Sherpoem wood," and a few good humorous stories. Great interest was displayed by the audience, whofully appreciated the subtle points and lights and shades which were well brought out. Mr. H. Pilkington Turner, who presided, spoke of the value of voice training as an aid to clear speaking and a pleasant style of conversation.

On the following Saturday, March 12, the readers had a rare treat, for Miss Chilton-Griffin found time, among her various profes-





[T. C. Horsley, R.A. MILTON COMPOSING SAMSON AGONISTES





E call our readers' attention to the very interesting account of the recent travels of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, which has just been published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, under the title of "The Prince of Wales' Book." This book contains the story, chiefly told by means of pictures, of H.R.H.'s voyages on the Renown to C unada, the United States,

and Australasia. The letterpress is confined to less than twenty pages and consists of (1) a brief description of the Prince's Canadian tour, followed by a number of very fine reproductions of photographic art, which vividly illustrate practically every phase of his journey; (2) a short account of the Australasian tour, followed by the story told in pictures. We see the Prince as a naval officer, as a diver, as a "digger," and as an Indian chief. He is seen driving his own train, being shaved, and receiving the order of the Equatorial Bath on crossing the Line, riding at Randwick racecourse, at cattle shows, in camp with cowboys, among the Maoris, sawing trees, on the golf links, at football and baseball matches, in a railway accident, and down a gold mine, and attending inspections, receptions, and banquets. A very valuable insight into the story of our Empire is gained from the study of a book of this description, which is, moreover, an educational, a geographical and above all, a human record of the travels of the Renown.

To us especial interest lies in the fact that the proceeds of the sale of this volume are to go to St. Dunstan's. In a "Foreword" the Prince calls attention to the work of the hostel, which has, he says, "served the Dominions no less than the Old Country," and which "is a university where men are taught to live again and to enjoy their life despite the loss of sight." And in

*Published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, Price 7s. 6d. an autograph letter which precedes the Foreword, H.R.H. says:—

"I hope that all who can will buy this book of photographs, and will thus help me to secure the largest possible assistance for our sailors and soldiers who were blinded in the war."

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When Mac, the Trooper, joined the Expeditionary Force of 8,500 New Zealanders, bound for a destination unknown, he did not "embark upon these adventures with the desire 'to crush once for all the Prussian military despotism.' Had he given the question deep thought he might possibly have welcomed this reason as an additional charm: though the fact was that he had never worried much concerning why he had come. War, romantic, glorious war, raging in the Old World, and he obeyed the irresistible desire to join in it." These few sentences probably express the motives of many of that light-hearted crew who, in the August of 1914, at the call to arms, fared forth on the quest of high adventure.

"The Tale of a Trooper" is the story of the Gallipoli Adventure, and in his book Mr. Clutha N. Mackenzie, who, it will be remembered, was the editor of that bright little paper, The Chronicles of the N.Z.E.F., tells in stirring strain his own experiences the experiences of a typical Anzac: off to the war, landed at Gallipoli, and finally wounded and blinded in the terrible battle for the ridge.

The author records hisown sensations and impressions, and gives us also a series of pictures, both humorous and grave, of life on shipboard, days spent in the Egyptian desert, an interview with the Sultan, the departure of the brigade as infantry to Gallipoli, followed by all the incidents of campaign life in the deadly climate of the peninsula.

^{† &}quot;The Tale of a Trooper," by Clutha N. Mackenzie published by John Lane, The Bodley Head, New York. Price 6s.

MUSICAL SUCCESSES L----------

URING the year 1920 the following certificates were awarded by the Incorporated Society of Musicians to students of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, who were presented for examination at the Birmingham Local Centre. The list is arranged in order of merit :-

PIANOFORTE

Grade IV.-Editha Waring, Honours:

Freda Cookson, Pass.

Grade III.-Frank Wilkins, Honours : Ivy Davies, Pass with distinction; Winifred Osborne, Pass with distinction; Ernest Fisher, Pass with distinction; Percy Arrowsmith. Pass with distinction: Wheeler, Pass; Thomas West, Pass; Sidney Tucknell, Pass.

Grade II.-Evelyn Neale, Honours; Stanley Taylor, Honours; Reginald Roberts, Honours: Monica Colquohon (Kindergarten Branch), Honours; Herbert Steel, Honours; Ernest Manning, Pass with distinction; William Faux, Pass with distinction; Marie Antoinette Van Helden, Pass; Ella Bartlett, Pass.

Grade I.—Beatrice Silk (Kindergarten Branch), Honours; Cyril Darnley (Kindergarten Branch), Pass with distinction; Joseph White (Kindergarten Branch), Pass with distinction; Arthur Clarke (Kindergarten Branch), Pass with distinction.

ORGAN

Grade II. Roland Pitt. Honours.

Grade I.-Walter Greenfield, Honours: William Faux, Pass; Sidney Tuckwell, Pass.

It may be of interest to state that out of a maximum of 135 marks awarded for the Ear Test on the above certificates (27), the number gained by the students reached 125.

Successes of pupils of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, in the November and December Examinations, 1920: Licentiate Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music.

Thomas Marshall, Performer: Sydney Jones and Robert J. Wyeth, Teachers.

Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music Local Centre Examination.

SINGING

Intermediate Grade,-Kathleen Blake. PIANOFORTE

Intermediate Grade.-Kathleen Blake and Ethel Poiner. Advanced Grade - Olive Marston.

School Examinations. SINGING

Lower Division.-Eva Harman.

Higher Division .- Ethel Bunton, Audrey Lidington, Emily Penn, Hilda Sage, Jean Welsh and Elsie Whitehead.

PIANOFORTE

Primary Division. -Keith Burrows and Phyllis Hooper.

Elementary Division. - Brian Cook. Eustace Escott, Dora Layzelle and Stanley Raalte.

Lower Division. - Ethel Bunton and Florence Easter.

Higher Division.—Emily Penn and Elsie

Whitehead.

In addition to the above highly satisfactory achievements, we heartily congratulate Miss Eva Williams (R.N.C.) and Mr. Percy Dean (Henshaw's) upon having obtained their Associate R.C.O. Diplomas, and Mr. Donald Sparrow (who obtained his F.R.C.O. some little time back) upon passing the L.R.A.M. Examination as a pianoforte teacher.

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BLIND ORGANIST AT EXETER CATHEDRAL

HE REV. H. E. C. LEWIS, M.A., F.R.C.O., Chaplain to the National Institute for the Blind, recently gave a recital on the organ of Exeter Cathedral. Although blind, and playing on an instrument with which he had had very little opportunity of becoming acquainted, he managed his registration with marked facility and success. His programme included an intermezzo, the Spring Song by Hollins and a Minuet in E flat by Wolstenholme, both blind composerorganists. Other numbers were by Smart and Salome (Sonata in C minor). The Rev. H. Lewis also improvised on a hymn tune with considerable skill.

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AMONG the 200 essays sent in from L.C.C. schools for competition for prizes offered by the Dickens' fellowship were four written in Braille by children attending the Linden Lodge Blind School.

HOW MANY BLIND PEOPLE CAN HEAR A BAT FLY?

WHEN a man is handicapped by the loss of one sense, another of the senses is very often extraordinarily well developed. Thus blind men have been proved to possess a much more keenly developed sense of hearing than have their sighted brethren.

It would be extremely interesting to learn how far this law of compensation, as we may term it, extends, not only as regards matters of every-day life, but in the more subtle realms of Nature. How many blind people of

our acquaintance have such keen hearing that they can distinguish the cry of a bat wheninflight?

Professor

J. Arthur
Thomson recently gave a
course of lectures at the
Royal Institution, and in
the course of
one of the
most interesting of the
series he took
as the title of
his subject

"The Mastery of the Air." In describing the wonderful flight of bats, he said: "Bats have very high-pitched voices, and as they fly they continually utter little cries which are beyond the normal range of human hearing. There are some people, however, whose sense of hearing is acute enough to distinguish these cries. It may be that in the continuous utterance of this high-pitched piping is to be found the secret of one of the most astonishing powers of the bat. That at least is the theory of a distinguished authority who has recently been experimenting." Most interesting tests of the bat's flight have been made. When the bats are bandaged so that they cannot see at all, and are put into a dark room, across which wires are strung in every direction, they fly about and never strike the wires. What an exquisite sense of touch! To feel the obstruction before it is reached! They evade telegraph-wires, piano-wires, and can go right under a chair without touching the bars.

What is the explanation? It has been suggested that the bats detect the slight difference of pressure and temperature in the air caused by the obstructions. The latest theory is that as the bats fly through the darkened room they utter their shrill piping, and it was the echoes of the sound thrown back from the wires which guided the bats in their flight. It was by means of the reglected sound that the clever little creatures found their way about.

L. D.

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A.C.B.M. DINNER

N March 9th, at the Café Marguerite, Oxford Street, a small social dinner was held by the London members of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs. A very eniovable evening was spent, and certain of the members pre-



ST. DUNSTAN'S, CHELTENHAM

sent gave evidence of the possession of musical talent. Miss Crowley, Mr. Tarry, Mr. Whitfield, Mr. Cartwright and Mr. Odell contributed and Miss Marjorie Truelove, L.R.A.M., very kindly gave her services as accompanist. It is hoped that these gatherings will be held periodically, as they afford members of the A.C.B.M. excellent opportunities not only for enjoying an occasional pleasant social evening, but also allow them to discuss matters of interest to the Association. Each member is allowed to purchase a ticket for a guest. The success of this first venture, which it must be understood was quite an informal ceremony, justifies the hopes entertained by its promoters that on the next occasion a still larger muster will be assured.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

FEBRUARY, 1921

FICTION

FIGITOR	
Under the Rose, 2 vols	F. Anstey
The Great Attempt, 4 vols	
Navy Eternal, 4 vols	
Madge, 2 vols	
London Pride, 8 vols	
Mr. Standfast, 6 vols	
Tarzan of the Apes, 5 vols	
Arrow of Gold, 5 vols	J. Conrad
Diary of a U-Boat Commander, 2	vols" Etienne"
Adventures of Miss Gregory, 4 v	
Richard Yea-and-Nay, 5 vols	
Getting Together	" Ian Hay"
The Yellow Ribbon, 3 vols	W. Le Queux
The Sister Disciple, 4 vols	W. Le Òueux
House of Baltazar, 5 vols	W. J. Locke
Idols, 4 vols	
Cruise of the "Dazzler," 2 vols	Jack London
Lonely House, 5 vols	s. Belloc Lowndes
Godolphin, 6 vols	Lord Lytton
Lady Helen's Neuralgia (Chambe	ers's Journal)
	R. Masson
The Post Cure Arrele	17/ D M

You Never Know your Luck, 3 vols...Sir G. Parker Daughter of Brahma, 6 vols................................... I. A. R. Wylie

MISCELLANEOUS

Economic Organisation of England :	an Outline
History, 3 vols	W. J. Ashley
*From the Log of the Velsa	
Story of Servia	L. P. Church
Esperanto Teacher, 2 vols	Helen Fryer
*Hymnal Companion, 5 vols.	
Guide to Welsh, 2 vols	
Life of Louise de Marrillac, 7 volsLo	ady Alice Lovat
Told in Gallant Deeds (a child's his	
war), 2 vols	Belloc Lowndes
Pelleas and Melisande (a play), 2 vo	ls

M. Maeterlinck Volsunga Saga ed. H. H. Sparling), 3 vols.

Translators, E. Magnusson and W. Morris Gleanings from Maeterlinck, 3 vols.

Translator and compiler, A. T. de Mattos Religion of Israel (an historical sketch), 4 vols. Canon R. L. Ottley

Ajax (trans. R. C. Trevelyan) (E. W. Austin Memorial Book) Sophocles Reconstruction of South Eastern Europe (with Preface by F. G. Frazer), 4 vols. V. R. Savic

Letters of a Diplomat's Wife, 1883-1900, 6 vols. Mary King Waddington Fields of Victory, 3 vols Mrs. Humphrey Ward Henry James. Rebecca West Political Portraits (Thomas Wolsey, Shakespeare, E. Hyde, G. Eurnet, C. J. Fox, Talleyrand,

MOON

Theodore Roosevelt's Letters to his Children, 3 vols. Editor, J. B. Bishop Cardinal's Snuff-Box, 4 vols.Henry Harland Wild Olive, 6 vols......Basil King Wee Willie Winkie; Baa, baa, black sheep; Drums of the Fore and Aft, 3 vols Rudyard Kipling

FOREIGN

Brief des Paulus an die Römer Modern French Grammar, 6 vols...C. M. Marchand

ESPERANTO

GRADE III

Coil of Caine, 5 vols.John Oxenham Ladder of Swords, 2 vols. Sir G. Parker

MUSIC PIANO-Associated Board School Exams. (1921) Lower Division; List A:-SpriteR. Holland

List B:-

List C:-

PIANO DUET-Minuet in G(primo and secondo parts) M. Moszkowski

Songs-Three Songs:-

1 'Twas in the glorious month of May

2 Since my love now loves me not 3 The butterfly is in love with the rose G. Cox

VOCAL EXERCISES-Progressive Studies (Low Voice), Part II,

THEORETICAL-

R. A. M. Metropolitan Exam. Papers:-Elements of Music and Musical Ornaments

Subject II, Class C, September, 1909 (Two papers) September, 1910 11

Christmas, 1910 September, 1911 "

" September, 1918 Subject II, Performers, Christmas, 1918

September, 1919 17 December, 1919

* Stereotyped Books.

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the March Numbers

Progress. — Editor's Note—On Hazardous Service, Chapter III, by Mervyn Lamb (concluded)—Likeness of a Woman—Song from "The Land of Heart's Desire," by William Butler Yeats—Imperial Delhi—Our Prize Competitions—Matters of the Moment—Garden Notes (March), by "Melipona"—Machines with Brains—Why do Blind People Walk with their Heads thrown back?—Miss Weaver's Retirement—The Setting Hen and the Chickens—Bill Adams in Japan—The Question Box—Chess—Our Home Page—Advertisements—Supplement: Powers of Locomotion by the Blind.

The Literary Journal.—The Blow, by Ada Leverson
—An Antidote to Pessimism—War and Music—
The Parnell Drama—National Library for the Blind
—Cheaper Postage for the Blind—Mr. Wells as
Historian—Aughrabies Falls—Reviews of Books—
The Lake Isle of Innisfree (Poem)

School Magazine.—The Lieutenant of the Tower, by Major-General Sir George Younghusband, K. C. M. G. —Leigh Hunt at Christ's Hospital—The Rabbit, by H. Mortimer Batten—The Story of the University Boat Race—Maundy Thursday—The Poplar Esquimaux—Biography in Brief: Dr. Isaac Watts (1664-1748)—How Honey is Made, by "Melipona"—Can we Measure the Universe?—Queries.

Comrades.—The Adventures of Sir Beaumains, 3, from "Tales of the Homeland," by Lewis Marsh, M.A.—
The Rookery, by H. Waddingham Seers—A Narrow Escape, 1 (Grade 1) (to be continued), from Second Oxford Reading Book—Brenda, the Cow-Girl, from Third Oxford Reading Book—Puzzles—Answers to last month's puzzles—Toby, from The Sphere.

Santa Lucia.—Mystery of the Marne—Statesman and his bird friends—Morwli—The Pavni's Count: chapters 22–23 (to be continued) by E. Phillips Oppenheim—The wonderful envelope we live in—The Rocket and the Moon—The Monster and the Midget—Songs of Cheer.

Braille Musical Magazine,—Our Tuners' Column— Notes on News—British Cathedral Organ—Music at the National Institute—Mr. Hollins' Recital—Further Musical Successes—National Institute Edition of Works by British Blind Composers—Special Tools for Tuners—Correspondence—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews; Insets: Piano, "Rondo Scherzando in B flat," by Priest; Organ, "Fuga in G minor," by Bach, Vol. IV, No. 7.

The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics,—Founder's Lecture: Manipulative Surgery—Official Notices—Lectures, etc.

The Hampstead.—Heart of the Rose, by Sarah Bernhardt—"Number, Please?"—Marvels of Tunnel-Making—He painted Africa Red—Ladies as trained 'Tecs—Lives Risked for Camphor—Bets Stories.

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Mantle of the East (continued)—Constable of the Tower—Some Coinage Experiments—Rain at a Yard a Day—History in a Soho Inn—New Publications.

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Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Naggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Naggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mines of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post freel, 10s. per year, Abroad, 4d. per copy, [2s. 6d. per year.

The After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind would be glad to hear from people who could offer good homes in private families to blind-deaf persons of both sexes, at a nominal charge. Anyone who is able to offer this, should apply to:—
THE SUPERINTENDENT, "After-Care Department," National Institute for the Blind, 8 Carburton Street, Great Portland Street, W. I.

COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION
OF THE BLIND, WORGESTER.—Public School
education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping,
Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men
and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes
from Head Master, G. C. Brown, M.A.

The After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind, London, would welcome Gifts of Cast-off Wearing Apparel, such as Boots, Shoes, etc., for Distribution among Necessitous Blind Persons, both Adults and Children. Numerous applications have been received of late for such articles, particularly for Men's Outer Garments. Any articles of clothing which can be spared should be sent to:—THE SUPERINTENDENT, "After-Care Department," National Institute for the Blind, 8 Carburton Street, Great Portland Street, W. 1

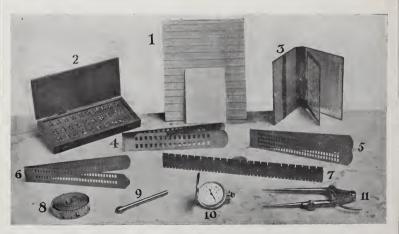
A PPOINTMENT REQUIRED.—Trained Certificated Mistress, age 21. Educated Bristol Blind School (1905-1916) Royal Normal College for Blind (1916-20). Residue of sight. Excellent testimonials and record.—MACLEOD, Castlefield Sands, High Wycombe.

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

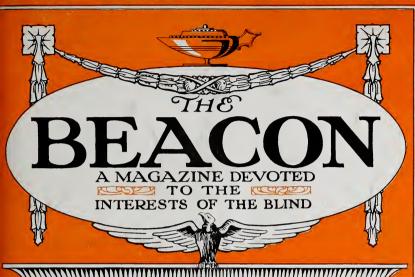
obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



GAMES FOR THE BLIND.—Draughts, Russian Fives, Chess, Chess and Draughts Outfit, Cheery Families, Bridge and Whist Cards, Patience Cards.



APPARATUS FOR THE BLIND.—1 Correspondence Tablets; 2 Braillette Board; 3 Pocket Postcard Writing-Frame; 4 Two-lined Pocket-guide for Giant Dots; 5 Four-lined Pocket Frame: 6 Two-lined interlining Pocket Guide; 7 Brass Foot Rule; 8 Tape Measure; 9 Spur-wheel; 10 Braille Watch; 11 Compasses.



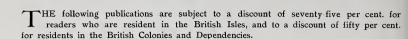
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND





Music-continued

EDUCATIONAL

	EDUCATIONAL	s.	a.		Music—continued	s.	d.
4654	Italian Braille Code	0	3	4838	"The Enchanted Pool," by Bath (Bar		
4809	Story of Captain Cook (Lang) Vol. 1	7			by Bar)	2	0
4810	" 2	7	4	4839	"Country Dance Tunes," Set IV, arr. by Sharp (Bar by Bar)		
4811	Story of H. M. Stanley (Golding)	7	4	4040	by Sharp (Bar by Bar)	2	11
4812	Vol. 1 Ditto ditto ditto " 2	7	4	4840	"Dance of the Gnomes," by Gerard, Op. 6, No 4 (Bar by Bar)	2	0
4813	Story of Sir Francis Drake (Eldon)	•	-	4841	"Memories of Springtime" (Romance),		U
1015	Vol. 1	7	10	1011	by Lingard (Bar by Bar)	2	0
4814	Ditto ditto ditto " 2	7	10	4842	"A Southern Maid" (Selection), by	-	·
4815	Story of Nelson (Sellar) Vol. 1		10		Fraser-Simson (Bar by Bar)	3	0
4816	.,, ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., ., .,		10	Vic	DLIN—		
4817	Story of Lord Roberts (Sellar) Vol. 1		10 10		"Caprice Viennois," by Kreisler, Op. 2	2	0
4818 4821	Story of Sir Walter Raleigh (Kelly)	′	10			-	۰
1021	Vol. 1	7	3		vgs—		
4822	Ditto ditto ditto " 2	7	3	4844	Recit. and Air "Hear Me! Ye Winds		
4823	Story of General Gordon (Lang)				and Waves!" (from "Scipio"), by		
	Vol. 1		10		Handel, arr. by A. L. (G minor: Compass, G, to E')	2	0
4824	,, ,, ,, 2	7	10	4845	"When Lights go Rolling Round the	-	U
					Sky," by Ireland (D: Compass,		
	ESSAYS AND BELLES LETTRES	,			D to F'	2	0
4820	The Mirrors of Downing Street (A			4846	"A Birthday," by Cowen (B flat:	_	
	Gentleman with a Duster ,	15	1	4847	Compass, Ď to Ď')	2	0
				4047	"Five-and-Twenty Sailormen," by Coleridge-Taylor (G minor: Com-		
	FICTION				pass D to D'	2	0
1010	What the Shepherds Saw (Hardy)			4848	"Hushing Song," by Bath (F: Compass, C to E')		
1017	(Pocket)	4	4		C to E')	2	0
	(4849	"Orpheus with his Lute," by Sullivan	_	_
	MUSIC			4850	(A: Compass, C to F') "If I might Come to You," by Squire	2	0
Сн	URCH—			1000	(A flat: Compass, E to E')	2	0
4827	"Evening Service in E flat," by			4851	"Now," by Rubens (D: Compass, A,	_	
	Woodward (Vertical Score)	2	5		to F')	2	0
4828	"Call to Remembrance" (Anthem), by		_	Du:	ETS—		
	Farrant (Vertical Score)	2	0	4852	"Break, Diviner Light!" (Contralto		
ORG	GAN-				and Baritone), by Allitsen	2	0
4829	"Fugue in B minor," Vol. 4, No. 8, by			4853	"Watchman! What of the Night?"	•	
	Bach (Bar by Bar)	2	0	4854	(Tenor and Bass), by Sarjeant	2	1
4830	"Triumphal March," by Hollins (Bar	_		4034	"Sleighing" (Soprano and Contralto), by Denza	2	0
4024	by Bar)	2	0	4855	"The Rose," and "The River and the	-	v
4831	"Twelve Studies on Old English Hymn-Tunes," by Palmer (Bar by				Sea" (Soprano and Contralto), by		
	Bar)	7	1		Noel Johnson	2	0
Dra	NO—			Тн	REE-PART SONG-		
4832				4856			
1032	Grieg (Bar by Bar)	5	7	1050	with Accompaniments for Two		
4833	"Woodland Sketches, by MacDowell				Violins and Pianoforte, by Elgar		
	(Bar by Bar)	5	7		(Open Score)	2	0
4834	"The Undertone," by Ireland (Bar by	2	•	4857	Ditto ditto ditto (Vertical Score)	2	5
402F	"Obsession," by Ireland (Bar by Bar)	2	0	Fot	JR-PART SONG—		
4835 4836	"Fire of Spring," by Ireland (Bar by	2	,	4858	"All in the April Evening" (S.A.T.B),		
1030	Bar)	2	0		by Roberton (Open and Vertical		
4837	"Noël," by Wolstenholme (Bar by Bar)	2	0		Scores)	2	11

TREBEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. V .-- No. 53.

MAY, 1921.

PRICE 3D.
3s. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

EDITORIAL



E have become so accustomed to the marvellous achievements of science that we are perhaps somewhat prone to forget that in spite of what has been attained we are still a very long way from finality. If the scientist of, say, a hundred years ago could have foretold an infinitesimal portion of the discoveries in scientific knowledge in even that comparatively short

space of time, he would probably have been burnt at the stake as a wizard or imprisoned in a lunatic asylum. And just in the same way we can only faintly imagine the developments that lie a hundred years ahead.

It would be interesting to try and discover the particular branch of science in which advancement has been most rapid. The answer might be found in the world of medicine. The miracles of surgery performed during the war, research work in the field of bacteriology, measures to alleviate suffering and disease; magnificent as these have been, we are still confronted with the knowledge of enormous discoveries still to be made.

In this number of *The Beacon* will be found mention of two scientific discoveries which, although different the one from the other, are concerned with a problem the absolute solution of which is still in the hands of time. We refer to the developments of talking machines for the use of the blind. That it would ever be possible to construct an instrument that would automatically register the words on a printed page and convey those words into a receiver attached to a blind person's ear, would, only a few years ago, have been scouted as a madman's dream.

Yet the introduction of the Optophone (see page 10) has proved that the sense of hearing can be used instead of the sense of sight, though at present the dream we have indicated is far from complete realisation. The Research Committee of the National Institute for the Blind is carrying on extensive experiments with the Optophone. It is not claimed for this instrument that it will ever supersede embossed books, but that it will supplement them, putting at the service of the blind reader the vast array of the world's printed literature. Any auxilliary aids that may supplement finger reading should as-suredly be encouraged. Take, for instance, the invention of Mr. Grindell Matthews (see page 11). This is called the Readograph, and its value lies in the fact that it may be found possible to provide a means of reading aloud at a reasonably small cost. People who lose their sight early in life have little difficulty in acquiring a high speed in tactile reading, but those who become blind in adult life have naturally many difficulties to overcome, and they can never hope to make their fingers read for them with complete fluency. For such as these the Readograph would be invaluable. The encouragement that must be given to all those working on behalf of our handicapped brothers and sisters, as well as to the blind themselves, by exploring every avenue that will lead to the lessening of that same grievous handicap is assuredly a justification in itself for the experiments now being made.

In connection with the above, it is interesting to record that for the past year experiments have been conducted in connection with the Pathéphone, a flat disc talking machine marketed by Messrs. Pathé Frères,

to discover if it might be possible to record books upon disc records for the purpose of reading aloud. These experiments, which have been most generously conducted by Messrs. Pathé Frères at their own expense, promise well, and in this direction too it is possible that an advance in connection with methods of providing literature for the blind may be made.

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SCOTTISH BOARD OF HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND

THE Scottish Board of Health have appointed an Advisory Committee to advise them on matters regarding the care and supervision of the blind, including any question which may be specially referred to them by the Department. The following gentlemen have been appointed members of the Committee:—

Nominated by the Board: Sir David Paulin, Edinburgh (Chairman); Maj. Sir Wm. Reid, Largs (Vice-Chairman); Mr. John Kerr, Aberdeen Asylum for the Blind; Dr. George Mackay, Edinburgh; Mr. W. M. Stone, Royal Blind School, Edinburgh.

Nominated by the Convention of Royal Burghs: Baillie Alexander Barrie, Edinburgh; Councillor Thomas Doughty, Dalkeith.

Nominated by the Association of Local Education Authorities in Scotland: Rev. John Smith, D.D., Glasgow; Mr. G. W. Tait, S.S.C., Edinburgh.

Nominated by the Association of County Councils in Scotland: Sir A. Buchan-Hepburn,

Bart., of Letham, Haddington.

Nominated by the Association of Parish Councils in Scotland: Mr. Andrew Stewart,

Glasgow.

Nominated by the Scottish National Federation of Institutions and Societies for the Blind: Rev. Thos. Burns, D.D., Edinburgh; Mr. J. Frew Bryden, Glasgow.

Nominated by the National League of the Blind: Mr. Alex. Butters, Dundee: Mr. Chas.

G. Lothian, Glasgow.

Mr. W. R. H. Johnston, Scottish Board of Health, 125 George Street, Edinburgh, has been appointed secretary to the Committee, and all communications should be forwarded to him at that address.

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HENSHAW'S Blind Asylum will be known in the future as Henshaw's Institution for the Blind.

TRAVELLING FACILITIES FOR THE BLIND

THE question of cheap travel for the blind is one which is apparently receiving the close attention of experts in many continental countries. A scheme for an international agreement on the subject has been submitted to M. Albert Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office, by the French National Office for the Industrial Assistance of the Blind, with the request that he might forward it to the First General Conference of the Freedom of Communications and Transit sitting at Barcelona.

It is suggested in particular that blind workers, of whom there are stated to be more than a million, should be allowed to travel accompanied by their guides on payment of a single fare, and, further, that this concession should be sanctioned by recognition as an international principle. We note that this concession is already granted in certain towns in France itself with regard to tramways and motor omnibuses. From Montreal comes the news that a suggestion to the same effect has been favourably considered and that the plan will shortly be put into operation.

In Great Britain free travelling passes for the blind are issued in the following towns:

Aberdeen, Accrington, Barrow-in-Furness, Birkenhead, Birmingham, Blackburn, Bolton, Bournemouth, Bradford, Burnley, Bury, Cardiff, Chester, Dundee, Glasgow, Gloucester, Halifax, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Northampton, Nottingham, Oldham, Preston, Salford, Sheffield, Southampton, Stockport, Sunderland, West Ham, Walsall and York; while in Newcastle and South Shields half-fares are charged to the blind. In Birmingham the free passes are extended to include omnibus travelling. Manchester and Salford issue interchangeable passes. The London County Council concession is made to comparatively few blind persons, and is generally regarded as being most unsatisfactory.

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IT is a good and safe rule to sojourn in every place as if you meant to spend your life there, never omitting an opportunity of doing a kindness or speaking a true word, or making a friend.

John Ruskin.





HIS trio was at the College for the Blind, Worcester, in its earliest days. They were, so to speak, its foundation students in the days when the Rev. Hugh Blair, M.A., and the Rev. S. S. Forster, M.A., were the first two Headmasters of the College. We give their names according to their seniority — McNeile, Ranger, Marston—names well known to all students

of the College, past and present. They were of like mind in the things that matter, and very quickly formed a friendship which has obtained in active enjoyment for more than half a century. It has now been broken by the death of Marston, the youngest of the trio. All three were from the first strenuous workers, and, as a consequence, all three have been of credit to the College, and have definitely added to its renown, and demonstrate its usefulness and efficiency not only in equipping the blind man for a useful career in life, but also in moulding his character to the pursuit of that which is good and useful as well for his King and country as for himself.

The Rev. N. F. McNeile, M.A., of Brafferton Vicarage, Yorkshire—often spoken of as "the Father of the College"—is a son of the famous Dr. Hugh McNeile, Dean of Ripon. McNeile graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, and distinguished himself in the University beyond anything previously achieved by one who was blind, and has since for over forty years discharged with exceptional efficiency and acceptability alike to his Bishop and his parishioners his duties as Vicar of a thriving Yorkshire parish.

Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., graduated at Oxford, where he had a really brilliant University career, obtaining first-class honours on two occasions and being proxime accessit for the Vinerian Law Scholarship, and finally obtaining the D.C.L. degree—the only blind man, we believe, who has secured that degree. Sir Washington Ranger has

practised as a solicitor in the City of London since 1879, and is now the Senior Partner in the well-known firm of Ranger, Burton and Frost.

The Rev. H. J. R. Marston, M.A., Rector of Lydford-on-Fosse, with Wheathill, in the County of Somerset, graduated at Durham University. He also had a brilliant University course, obtaining high honours and the Hellenistic Greek Prize, and finally a University Fellowship.

These three blind men have lived, practically during the whole of their lives, in the closest intimacy of the happiest of friendships; and during the whole time have been in constant touch with their old College at Worcester, and throughout its various fortunes have kept its light burning—a haven of hope and opportunity, which, as Goldsmith expresses it,

"Adorns and cheers the way, And still as darker grows the night Emits a brighter ray,"

and a witness of what can be achieved by students of character and purpose, notwithstanding the severe handicap of blindness—until another blind man has in these later years come upon the scene in the person of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., who has taken up the cause of the College with his well-known ability and efficiency, and through the medium of the National Institute for the Blind is fast placing the College with full equipment of buildings, apparatus, furniture and the like on a footing of permanence which will make the College the centre of interest for all blind students throughout the British Empire.

For more than forty years Viscount Cobham was Chairman of the Governors of the College, Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., being Hon. Secretary to the Governors. The College is a great debtor to Viscount Cobham for his unfailing and judicious interest in its concerns; indeed, but for Viscount Cobham the College would have scarcely survived one or two of the most trying phases of its

early career. In this respect also we must mention the timely and generous support which the Clothworkers' Company rendered the College in its early days. And now the crowning services of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., who is the present Chairman of the College, whilst Mr. G. F. Mowatt, J.P., also a former student, is the Hon. Sec. to the Governorsare, as it were, completing the edifice, which is in every sense big with promise for future blind students of the English - speaking peoples.

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BLIND OARSMEN

HE following curious extract is taken from Dr. von Hentzig's book "My

Diplomatic Journey in the Closed Country," and is quoted in the January number of the Esperanto Ligilo and the Valentin Haüv Review. The paragraph concernsthetravels of the German Legation in various Oriental countries in the year 1915, Dr. von Hentzig being at that time secretary to the Legation:

"Our crew on the River Euphrates was composed of

blind men, who, in spite of their handicap, rowed with remarkable skill and vigour, accomplishing no less than 110 kilometres daily between the hours of 4 a.m. and 2 p.m. Their blindness was the result of ophthalmia, a disease which attacks a great number of Arabs living near the Euphrates. In the scorching mid-day hour the exhausted rowers fell down on their seats, and were soon fast asleep. Left to itself, the boat floated with the current, its course regulated from time to time by a turn of the wheel from the pilot, the only member of the crew who was in possession of the sight of one of his eyes. . . ."

HOMES FOR THE BLIND

AST month Mr. and Mrs. F. Farrow took up their residence at the Homes for the Blind, Fulwood, Preston, of which they have become the head master and matron.

Mr. Farrow was for many years a teacher under the Leeds Education Committee, and during that time gave instruction to a class of blind boys. He has recently been teaching under the County Council for Lancashire. Mrs. Farrow was a teacher for a period of ten years at the Homes for the Blind, Leeds, and during that time gained much experience as a matron in connection with the opening of a new hostel, Mr. W. H. Corner, of Fulwood, has been appointed

secretary to the

homes.

0000 WE learn with much pleasure that the French Academy has awarded a prize medal to Miss Gettv. founder of the La Roue Press, which provides blind students with embossed books of all descriptions. To this work Miss Getty has devoted all her energies and all her resources. Since its inception, the La Roue Press has



[Photo: Topical Press Agency

THE TOWN OF ST. DAY, CORNWALL, IS PARTLY SUPPLIED WITH WATER BY A BLIND MAN, WHO CHARGES THREE HALF-PENCE FOR TWO PITCHERS-FULL.

> issued no less than 11,400 volumes, which have been distributed gratuitously to 250 blinded soldiers and to 50 Schools of Reeducation.

> The La Roue Press carries on its work with the assistance of the Permanent Blind Relief War Fund and the co-operation of a number of zealous Frenchwomen.

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In a recent competition for the prettiest floral balcony in London, the second prize was awarded to Mrs. Johnson, a blind woman living in Blackfriars. There were 2,000 competitors.

THE BLIND IN GERMANY, AND THE OCCUPATION OF BLIND PERSONS IN THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD

By a Swiss Correspondent to the "Blindenbote" (The Swiss Messenger of the Blinden-Abridged from the German



T is extremely difficult to form a general opinion of the conditions which obtain in the blind community in Germany. General conditions in that country show, on the one side, confused pictures bearing indications of violent upheaval, on the other side they indicate an energetic impulse towards development. The self-same tendencies are observable in the

blind world of Germany. I spent three weeks visiting various large towns in that country.

In discussing what I saw there I propose to touch principally upon the employment of the blind in the industrial world, as the study of this question exclusively occupied

my attention.

The transformation and rapid development through the war of the conditions relating to the blind in Germany renders the study of this subject of paramount interest. State and Society were forced into the consideration of questions such as in times of peace they had not considered, or perhaps even did not wish to consider. Already, during the first months of the war, materials for the ordinary occupations practised by the blind, such as basket weaving and brush-making were lacking. The ranks of the civilian blind were swelled by the large number of blinded soldiers and sailors. There was a sufficiency of work, but an insufficiency of hands to perform that work. This was the moment when new opportunities of work for the blind presented themselves. The State Insurance against Accidents passed a law permitting the appointment of blind persons in factories, in cases where their inspectors and industrial societies deemed the measures taken for their protection sufficiently adequate. A later Act required a certain percentage of wounded to be employed in every large industrial concern. Businesses where civilian blind were employed were exempt from this obligation.

In Berlin the first decided attempts at employing blind people in factories were made by the Siemens-Schukert Works. They started with simple checking and packing work, and ended with the manipulation of boring machines and stamping presses. When I visited the works I found forty to fifty blinded soldiers and civilians occupied there. Their work is chiefly concerned with the examination and manufacture of articles produced in large quantities. For instance, a workman is set the task of screw-thread cutting. He places the bored nut into the cavity of a plate which corresponds with its shape. It is then pushed along a groove under the borer, which, set in motion by an electric motor, sinks with a slight movement of the lever into the piece of work, cuts the thread, and is raised automatically again by a reversing motion. The plate is then withdrawn, the completed work falls into a box, and the same operation is repeated. On other machines the borer is stationary; the part is raised, together with the plate, by a movement of the foot. The measures taken to avoid accidents are excellent. The motor with stays is covered and the borer is guarded. In order to avoid injury to the fingers by the stamping press, the machine has been so arranged that it can only be set in motion by the movement of two hands at two different levers.

The satisfactory results obtained in the Siemens Works induced the Prussian Government to appoint a Committee for testing the possibilities of work in the industrial world. The largest industrial concerns in Berlin were visited, the men watched at their work, and notes taken of those branches of the work which might be considered fit for blind persons.

To-day we find persons with impaired eyesight employed in cigarette and chocolate factories. In firms which produce electrical parts in large quantities the sparking plugs are tested by means of a bell apparatus.

Besides these occupations there are all kinds

of checking and packing work.

In addition, new possibilities of work have been discovered by each town possessing some specially developed industry which calls for special work. In the "Polyphon" Works a blind man was to be found testing the sound boxes of the gramophone. At the Worsted Yarn Mills a blind man was employed pasting paper strips on to cylinders. In a cutlery factory blind persons were manipulating the stamping, drilling and milling machines and the cutting-out shears.

The city of Leipzig has provided a special Administrative Office for the Care of the Blind. This office controls possibilities of work for the blind. It supervises the purchasing of materials for the blind workmen, visits them in their own homes, in order to investigate their requirements, and superintends the payment of unemployment and

other relief.

In Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Director Grasemann (head of the Blind Institution) gave me some details as to how the difficulties which arose during the war were surmounted. Lack of raw material for the workmen forced him to look around for work in the industrial world. Occupation was found in pasting together pieces of leather for the soles of shoes. But here, too, the raw material soon failed. Attempts were then made at work in the shape of weighing and packing cocoa, and when this material, too, gave out, the same kind of work was performed with blackberry and lime-blossom tea.

It is interesting to take note of the work of the Council for the Consideration of Professions and Employment Bureau of the County Agency of Wuerttemberg. The blinded soldiers were seldom trained in manual occupations for the blind; this training was only given in cases where work in the country, whilst living with their own families, was assured. Every effort was made to adhere to the principle of finding occupation for the wounded in their former or kindred trades. And results were obtained which cannot fail to arouse our deepest admiration. Who is not astounded on hearing that in a remote country village a blinded carpenter is supervising his own workshop, that another blind man has been set up by the Stuttgart Theatre in his own joinery business? Blinded farmers have returned to their farms, where with the help of their wives they are successfully carrying on their work on the land. Good

results are, of course, only obtainable where the work is rightly apportioned. Infirmity retards progress only too often. But there is no doubt of the efficiency of the workers. Occupation in industrial work is also largely promoted by the County Insurance of Wuerttemberg. Besides the above-mentioned occupations. I saw others being pursued in which the accentuated sense of hearing of the blind was turned to good account in the production of articles manufactured in large quantities. I found a man with impaired eyesight in a motor-works, testing the position of a bulb by means of his sense of hearing. Another was examining alarm clocks with regard to faulty sounds; the examination was taking place through a sound tube. This kind of work was previously performed through the medium of the eve.

Thus has Germany in the hour of her great need and confusion set herself new aims, and is working successfully at their

fulfilment.

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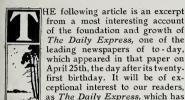
BLINDED SOLDIERS AND HAIR DRESSING

WE learn from the Blindenbote (Messenger of the Blind) that at Innsbruck an attempt has been made to entrust blind workers with certain operations connected with hair dressing. The work consists in collecting, pressing and binding fine strands of hair between tightly-drawn threads. These operations require manual dexterity rather than eyesight and are therefore pre-eminently suitable for the blind. No machinery is required, and the work may well be done at home, in a sitting or upright position. Most satisfactory results have been obtained at Innsbruck, where it has been ascertained that work of the length of one metre may be completed by a beginner in one hour, while a practised hand can produce one and a half metres in the same time. The work, even at a long stretch, is by no means tiring. Piecework rates are paid and good wages earned by these blind workers in Innsbruck.

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Mr. A. M. NICHOLLS, a blinded exsoldier, who has also two artificial arms, recently cycled on the back seat of a tandem from Westminster Bridge to Brighton in four and three-quarter hours. After the ride he cycled another forty miles to Chipstead, Kent.

THE STORY OF THE "DAILY EXPRESS' 1900—1921



so brilliantly realised the promise of its inception, was founded in 1900 by Sir

Arthur Pearson :-

"The Daily Express was founded on Tuesday, April 24th, 1900, by Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, now Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt. It was in the early days of popular appeal, when the Press had not yet penetrated to the nooks and crannies of the country and an immense section of the newspaper reading public was still in a primitive stage of development. Mr. Pearson was a man of tremendous energy, enthusiasm and force of character, and he embodied all these qualities in the newspaper which he brought into existence.

"It was evident from the first number that The Daily Express had carved out a place of its own. It was received with surprise and gratification. It became immediately popular with all classes, high and low, from the Cabinet Minister to the cabinetmaker, from Queen Victoria to her humblest subject. It had happy characteristics of its own. Its cheerfulness, its unquenchable habit of looking on the bright side of things, and its sane outlook on the affairs of the day, soon gained for it a body of readers who have ever since been faithful to it. Here was a new type of morning newspaper, which had the enterprise to ignore traditional methods of 'make-up' by printing its news on the front page. The busy man, instead of having to grope through a labyrinth of advertisements to the snug retreat of the main news section, found the principal events of the previous day set out before him when he took up the paper.

"When The Daily Express was born this world of ours was a far different place. Aeroplanes, taxicabs and wireless were still visions of the future and only concerned a little baud of lunatic-experimenters. Queen Victoria was being cheered in the streets of Dublin. Boers were on trial at Capetown for high treason, and the nation waited hopefully for news of Lord Roberts' latest drive against the enemy. The Mad Mullah had begun to make a nuisance of himself in Somaliland. Germany was reiterating her sentiments of affection for Britain.

"It is curious in the light of later events to read the message of the German ex-Emperor, which was one of the 'exclusives' published in the first number of *The Daily Express*.

"'Tell the British people,' he said, 'that my first hope now and always is the preservation of international peace; my second the consolidation and maintenance of good relations between Germany and Great Britain. Between these two nations no essential difference exists, nor should one arise.'

"Later, when The Daily Express had reason to criticise the hostile attitude of the German Government and its unwarranted military preparations, the Emperor himself gave orders that no correspondent of this paper should be permitted to attend the

grand army manœuvres.

"The Daily Express went steadily on. Sir Arthur Pearson's enthusiasm and energy permeated the establishment. He was a man possessed to the full with every attribute that makes for success and achievement. He had breadth of vision, human sympathy, deep insight and political acumen, and that rare capability for getting out of all men the best there is in them. His was a hopefulness and a firm belief in the future based on right and good will which overcame obstacles. He held high the lamp of optimism and a firm belief in the Empire's destiny. What he began has ever been maintained by his colleagues and successors. Sir Arthur Pearson worked harder than any man in his service. He set an example of industry and application which has seldom been equalled. Newspaper making is at all times an exacting task requiring deep concentration and endless effort. There is no place for the slacker in a successful newspaper office. There are only twenty-four hours in the day, and these must be wholly absorbed. Sir Arthur gave himself up to the task—and paid the penalty. His sight gradually gave way until in the end darkness came to one of the most remarkable young men of his time, and he was forced to look about him for help in the great task of conducting the paper which he had so successfully brought into existence.

"In April, 1902, when the paper was two years old, Mr. Ralph David Blumenfeld joined the forces of *The Daily Express*. He had to his credit many years of varied journalistic experience. It was not long after Mr. Blumenfeld's acceptance of the post of editor that Sir Arthur Pearson's great misfortune overtook him. The man of action was stricken with blindness—partial at first but gradually growing more and more

pronounced.

"Another man might have given up all work, but Sir Arthur, although no longer able to carry on the exacting, arduous and nerve-shattering work of newspaper control, went on to another triumph. He became the Blind Man leading the Blind to a new world.

"With the enthusiasm that darkness could not dim and a spirit that even so dire a misfortune could not dismay, Sir Arthur took the blind as they came from the war, crestfallen, hopeless, broken in spirit, and after half an hour's talk almost made them believe that it was a privilege to be blind. He restored their confidence in themselves and sent them off with hope in their hearts and the will to conquer misfortune.

"Sir Arthur Pearson had laid to his credit a great task well accomplished, but on his final and complete retirement from the business in 1912, The Daily Express fell on difficult days. However, Mr. Blumenfeld persuaded Lord Beaverbrook to come into the business with him, and from the close and intimate co-operation of these two men dates the new era of the paper. Since they formed their partnership The Daily Express has never looked back.

"Within a short time after Lord Beaverbrook and Mr. Blumenfeld joined hands the whole plant and machinery were renewed and entirely reconstructed. A great new battery of printing presses, three of which alone could do all the work of the former machines, were promptly introduced. Warehouses for holding great stocks of newsprint were established and an adequate supply in advance was thus assured. The old premises in Shoe Lane were purchased and renovated and two more storeys added to them. Adjoining premises were secured on lease. Another building has been secured on long lease at 116 Fleet Street, and the entire business staff of the company moved into it. Both in the sphere of production and distribution Lord Beaverbrook's experience of the industrial world was brought to bear in order to create a business system run on the most modern lines of efficiency and economy.

"In order to accomplish all this not less than £400,000 of new capital in one form or another was brought into the business.

"The circulation of the paper has doubled until it has reached the total of 554,000 daily sales, and its advertisement revenue has gone up by leaps and bounds.

"Concurrently with this material expansion a spirit of independence in view marked the departure of a purely political control. The Daily Express has been a vigorous critic, both destructive and constructive. It has assailed abuses unsparingly and never shirked the suggestion of remedies for the evils it denounced. It has been intolerant of privilege, a champion of equality of opportunity, and a defender of freedom.

"In all things the spirit of *The Daily Express* has been of cheerfulness and the encouragement of effort. It has never advised its readers to be downhearted, it has always preached the energy of hope, it has always believed that courage and activity should be given their chance to succeed, and that success would crown the struggle. For this reason it has striven to wipe out inequalities, to destroy privilege, and to strike the fetters off the human spirit. It has aimed at establishing that type of democracy, free, patriotic and vigorous, of which our Dominions across the sea afford us a brilliant example.

"The spirit in The Daily Express office has helped no less to make it a great newspaper. It is a spirit of fine loyalty and good fellowship. Many members of the staff have been associated with the paper since the beginning; some have seen nearly twenty years' continuous service. They have not

been tempted by flattering offers to go elsewhere. They have felt proud of their connection with *The Daily Express* and of their own share in its success.

"From its earliest days this newspaper has always been happy in its staff. The individuality of the paper attracted to it men of the highest qualifications in all branches of newspaper work. Its first number contained a notable contribution from Mr. (now Major) Hesketh Prichard, creator of the famous 'Don Q' (a dramatic version of which is now being played at the Apollo Theatre), who subsequently went for the paper on an expedition into the wilds of Patagonia.

"An outstanding figure on the staff from 1911 to the end of 1916 was the late Ivan Heald, killed during the war, most whimsical and human of humorists, whose contributions to these columns during that period would fill several good-sized volumes. One such book was published posthumously in 1917, under the title of 'Ivan Heald: Hero and Humorist,' and was hailed as one of the most genuinely humorous volumes of the century.

"Another notable member of the staff was Lieut. Alan Ostler, M.C. Ostler was a born campaigner whose adventurous spirit carried him all over the Seven Seas and into the remotest corners of the earth. He, too, like his colleague, Ivan Heald, afterwards joined the Royal Air Force, and like him, was killed in action. He and his pilot were brought down by the Germans and killed near Gouzeaucourt on September 16th, 1918. He lived all his life in an atmosphere of danger and died a hero's death.

"Sir Percival Phillips, still happily with us, is another great outstanding figure. He has been described as the Prince of War Correspondents. He had been through the Greco-Turkish War of 1897, and Spanish-American War of 1898, but his first great campaign for *The Daily Express* was the Russo-Japanese war of 1904. He was also with the Italians in the Tripoli expedition of 1911, and in the first Balkan wars. He was in Jamaica when the great earthquake turned Kingston upside down; he was in the middle of the Portugueser evolution, and he described the great Indian Durbar.

"Sir Percival was one of the first correspondents in the field when the war broke out in 1914, and his despatch of August 10th of that year decribing how the German

hordes advanced 'like a swarm of locusts' has almost become history.

"In 1900 the staff of *The Daily Express* numbered 250 in all departments. To-day the total is 678.

"In 1900 the total capacity of the printing machines was 140,000 copies per hour. Today it is 340,000 copies per hour.

"In 1900 the floor space of *The Daily Express* offices was 12,000 square feet. In 1914 it was 21,790 square feet. To-day it is 59,270 square feet.

"The Sunday Express is the first offspring of The Daily Express, and from its birth it has displayed all the vigorous oharacteristics of its parent. The first number was published on December 29th, 1918, the day after the general election, and it instantly established itself as a new power in Sunday journalism. Its rapid progress during the past two years and four months has been unparalleled, and it is now one of the most original and vivacious Sunday newspapers.

"A year ago Mr. James Douglas resigned the editorship of *The Star* and became editor of *The Sunday Express*. During that period the circulation of *The Sunday Express* has steadily increased until to-day its issue is over 300,000.

"Its popularity is due in the first place to its news service, the excellence of which is, of course, based upon the world-wide organisation of *The Daily Express*, with its correspondents in every capital and every quarter of the globe.

"One of its achievements during 1920 was the publication of a remarkable series of articles by Mr. H. G. Wells describing his visit to Russia. Its literary contributors include many of the most brilliant men of letters of the day.

"It is especially interesting to point out that of the large number of advertisers represented in the birthday issue of the paper no fewer than nineteen were also represented in its first number, twenty-one years ago."

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ON Monday evening, March 14th, at the National Library for the Blind, Mr. H. Keatley Moore and his excellent choir gave an entertainment, in the form of a concert-lecture, on "How to listen to music." illustrated by a number of well-selected part-songs.





N April 6th, Dr. Archibald Barr, Emeritus Professor of Engineering, University of Glasgow, read a paper before the Royal Society of Arts on the Optophone and the latest developments in the instrument invented by Dr. Fournier D'Albe.

The principle of the Optophone has already been described in the pages of *The Beacon*, but for

those who may not have seen our previous article it may be stated briefly that the Optophone is a highly delicate machine which enables the blind to read ordinary printed matter, this being accomplished by producing in a telephone receiver a series of musical notes representing the various letters, as these are passed over by the instrument in traversing a line of print. The sense of hearing is thus used instead of the sense

of sight.

But, as Dr. Barr pointed out in his lecture, "It is not to be supposed that Optophone reading will consist in analysing the sound motifs so as to identify the forms of the letters indicated. That would be hopelessly slow. The motif for each letter will be recognised as a whole, and later in the reader's practice the more extended motifs for syllables, and even words, will become familiar to his ear. In reading by sight, we do not think of the similarity and difference between such letters as e and c, nor indeed do we think of the difference of the sounds when we hear the names of these two letters spoken. An Optophone reader will come to recognise words as readily as a telegraph operator interprets a succession of clicks on the Morse code. He will treat the motifs produced by the Optophone as words in a new language, which he will translate into the spoken tongue as they are uttered. The great rapidity that has been attained by hundreds of readers of Morse sounds encourages the hope that equal or greater speed in Optophone reading will be attained with practice. In proof of this I may state that Miss Jameson, in her recent trials of one of the new Optophones, finds that she can read more easily at twenty-five words per minute than at ten words per minute."

The value of a new invention such as this cannot at first be fully realised. From Stephenson's Rocket was evolved the present high-powered railway engine of to-day. The crude Graham Bell telephone of 1876 has led us to the wonders of wireless telephony in only a few years. As Dr. Barr pointed out, the Optophone is still in its infancy, and a word or two may be said with regard to its present limitations.

To quote Dr. Barr: "We cannot expect to enable a sightless person to glance rapidly over the pages of a newspaper, as we who have sight would do, and select the passages that may be of interest; nor can we expect a blind person to turn rapidly over the pages of a book and find a specified page. Again, when the desired page is found, it will not be easy to find a particular passage without reading word by word from the beginning of the page. But, apart from such obvious disabilities, the instrument should open up quite a new field of interest and instruction to the blind in enabling them to study books and magazines that are at present closed to them. I have no doubt that thousands of those who have the misfortune to have been born blind or who have lost their sight in services of their country or otherwise will be profoundly grateful to Dr. Fournier D'Albe for this beautiful invention, which brings within their reach new sources of interest, instruction and enjoyment, and which in many cases will greatly extend their opportunities and qualifications for useful and profitable employment."

It is not claimed that the Optophone will supersede tactile reading but that it will supplement it; indeed that it will place at the disposal of the blind a world of literature not available in embossed type.

TALKING MACHINE DEVELOPMENTS

R. H. GRINDELL MATTHEWS has succeeded in photographing sound waves on a film and subsequently making the sound wave render back audible speech when the film has been developed. The sound waves of the original spoken voice cause a little mirror to vibrate, and the flashing. thus produced is recorded by a cinematograph camera. When the film is developed the eve perceives a thin wavy black line running along the length of the film. These are the sound waves of which a photograph has been taken. In order to reproduce speech, this track, as it is called, is made to pass between a bright light and a selenium cell which is in an electrical circuit with an ordinary or loud-speaking telephone. Selenium is a rare metal which has the peculiar property of bearing the resistance it offers to the passage of a current of electricity in accordance with the amount of light falling upon it. Thus the passage of the sound track interrupts the light of the periodicity of speech waves, causing shadows of varying frequencies to fall upon the selenium. Thus the current of electricity from the telephone is modified in accordance with the vibrations of speech and a clear reproduction is obtained. Mr. Grindell Matthews is applying the invention to a cinematograph film. It is stated that he has successfully synchronised the photography of the moving play and the recording of speech of the actors, so that the complete reproduction of the piece appealing to both eye and ear is represented. Mr. Grindell Matthews has most generously placed the invention at the disposal of the National Institute for the Blind, who, with him, are conducting experiments to discover if it is possible for books to be recorded upon a long length of film, so that the blind may enjoy being read to aloud without the trouble or the expense of a reader. This scheme is, of course, in its infancy, and it is inadvisable to anticipate the results of tests, but it is just possible that in the not far distant future a library of books recorded upon films may be established from which blind people will be able to order films as they require them.

Captain Ian Fraser, Chairman of the Research Committee of the National Institute for the Blind, Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General of the Institute, and others have personally heard the film speak, and have expressed the hope that it may prove to be of great use to the blind.

OPENING OF WOMEN'S HOSTEL

THE new hostel for blind women acquired in connection with the Cardiff Institute for the Blind in Howard Gardenswas formally opened on April 19th by Mrs. J. C. Gould, J.P., in the presence of a large gathering.

The Chairman referred to the general regret felt at the retirement of Mr. Hodges, as secretary, after seventeen years' service, and gave a summary of the work of the Institute since it was founded in 1865 in a private house at Canton for the welfare of three blind workers. At the present they were providing employment for eighty-eight men and women in their workshops and Institute. Great extensions, however, were necessary, and the provisioning of the women's hostel, which would accommodate twelve women, was a step in that direction. They hoped later to provide a hostel for some of the male workers.

Mrs. J. C. Gould subsequently declared the hostel open and wished it every success.

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ONE of the few remaining links with the East India Company has been severed by the death, at Bath, of Lieut.-Col. E. J. M'Nair, late of the Bengal Infantry. The deceased, who formerly lived at Ipswich, was eighty-three, and had been totally blind for twenty years. He obtained his commission in the East India Company in 1856, fought in the Mutiny, and was present at the capture of Delhi. He also served in the Hazara Expedition in 1868, and was present at the capture of the Black Mountain.

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY

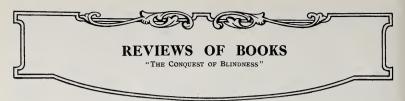
The following have been added to the Massage Library:—

Theory and Practice of Massage, by Beatrice Copestake. Four vols.

Fractures and Dislocations, by Beatrice Copestake. Two vols. (pocket).

Prognosis and Treatment of Injuries of the Peripheral Nerves, by F. J. Nattrass. Two vols. (pocket).

Psychological Analysis of a Case of Simple Hysteria, by Kenelm Reid (pocket)



N interesting description of the inner life of the Blind is given by Sir Arthur Pearson in his book "The Conquest of Blindness" (Hodder & Stoughton, 2s. 6d.). A very interesting review of this book has appeared in the Morning Post, which we take the liberty of quoting:—

"Of all the little plays at the

"Of all the little plays at the Little Theatre the most arresting,

the nearest to reality and the furthest from realism, is "Seven Blind Men," which presents a joyless company of blind brush-makers (deprived of all their small pleasures by a petty tyrant) who, when panic-stricken, fall about and burn themselves on the stove, while one leaps out of an open window. And, by a strange coincidence, the reviewer, when on his way to see this and other miniature melodramas, passed a blind placarded mendicant in the Strand, tap-tap-tapping his way home with a stout stick. The things that happened in the play, however, and the dismal tapping of the blind beggar's stick are no longer evil necessities of a sightless existence. The Great War, by the vast amount of new experience it has provided for those who minister to the broken body or the mind diseased, has, at any rate, had one good result-it has immeasurably increased our medical and surgical knowledge and our resources for 're-education,' i.e., how to teach those who have lost limbs or eyesight to become once more useful and contented members of the general community.

"In the re-education of the blind magnificent work has been done, and it is very fitting that Sir Arthur Pearson's name should be so intimately associated with the victories of St. Dunstan's, for he himself has had to accustom himself to the loss of a sense that really controls the other senses, and has shown that such a loss need not diminish a man's usefulness to his fellow-men, nay, can even increase it. There is a profound and

personal knowledge in his observations on how to learn to be blind, without rancour or repining, which makes his little book one that appeals as much to the heart as to the understanding. The first step is cheerfully to acquiesce in the loss of sight, to avoid depression, and to develop in every possible way the remaining senses-hearing, touch, smell-which, except among savage tribes, have been allowed to lose much of their keenness and varied power. It is astonishing, though, how soon the pristine acuteness and adaptability is restored, provided the blind person relies on them as far as possible. refusing to use the stick, for example, which is still part of the blind beggar's stock-intrade. The preliminary apprenticeship is no easy matter; the less easy because the disappearance of the innumerable pleasures and distractions of seeing throws the patient back on reflection in the dark, which is apt to be dismal and foreboding. In point of fact, the mind in the long run gains power and a more far-reaching capacity, for the blind man must do much more thinking than those who can drug the brain, so to speak, with the easy allurements of seeing. Sir Arthur Pearson gives several examples of the acuteness of the blind man's remaining senses and of the accuracy with which the impressions received through them come to be instinctively combined. He tells us, for example, how, when walking with a friend, he stopped at the right house (which his friend was passing), having detected the slight echo from the porch it possessed, unlike the neighbouring houses. His little treatise on the art of being blind and happy at the same time is full of such interesting details. And, in passing, he relates some curious stories of people blind from very early childhood-particularly significant is the story of a woman, about thirty years of age, who recovered her sight as the result of an operation, and had the bandages finally removed in a room with one window. The

sun was shining brightly outside, and three sparrows were hopping about on the window-sill, and her first words were: 'Why, look at those three candle-flames!' This touches on the problem—different from that of men blinded in the war—of the education of the blind children, for which Sir Arthur Pearson has also done invaluable work. All who read this book will be more eager than ever to

co-operate with him in helping theblind to a full and self - supporting life."

OOOO
THE following paragraph
appeared recently in the
Daily Graphic:

Ernest Haves, the old England and Surrey cricketer, tried to get to St. Dunstan's to referee a football match. His taxi had to abandon the contest owing to thedenseness of the fog, so Ernest proceeded on foot and immediately lost his bearings.

He found a telegraph boy, who put him on the rightroad. But then he managed to lose his way again. To his relief he heard footsteps

behind him and was surprised to see three men stepping briskly along. "Where's St. Dunstan's?" he asked. "Come along," was the reply, and then he discovered they were three blind men going up to work and that they could see better in the fog than he could.

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WRITE injuries in dust and kindness in marble. Plato.

THE WORKS OF BLIND COMPOSERS

I N our last Editorial we made mention of the edition of the Works of British Blind Composers issued by the National Institute for the Blind. In connection with this subject

we wish to add that the financial and expert assistance organised by the Institute for such publication is undertaken free of charge, the resources of the Institute having been placed at the disposal of blind composers who, by merit of their work, prove themselves eligible for such assistance. In the case of loss through nonsales or insufficient public support, the loss is borne by the Institute. As soon as a work has sold sufficiently to cover the cost of production, the profits are handed on to the composer, the Institute deriving no profit whatever

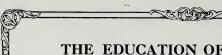


[Photo: Sunday Pictorial Mr. SINCLAIR LOGAN, THE BLIND COMPOSER, AT WORK

and making no charge on the composer for the assistance given.

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AT this year's Royal Drawing Society's Exhibition at the Guildhall Art Gallery, London, were exhibited some drawings executed by sightless boys, as well as a series of efforts by children two and three years of age.



THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND

A COURSE OF LECTURES



N interesting course of lectures is now being given under the auspices of the University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind. These lectures treat of the education, the training and the employment of the blind, and they are illustrated by practical demonstrations whenever possible. A perusal of the list of subjects, together with the

names of the lecturers, may be of interest to

readers in this country:-

March 11th, 1921.

"Introduction": Dr. Josiah H. Penniman (Acting Provost, University of Pennsylvania)

"The Early History of the Education of the Blind": Mr. John Cadwalader (Trustee, University of Pensylvania, President, Board of Managers, Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind).

"Early History of the Education of the Blind in Germany, Italy and France": Mr. Edward E. Allen (Director, Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the

Blind. Watertown, Mass.).

March 12th, 1921.

"The Education of the Blind Child under School Age," Helpful Suggestions to the Mother of a Blind Child: Miss Amy Halfpenny (Teacher, Red Cross Institute for the Blind, Baltimore, Md.).

"The Education of the Blind Child in Public Day Schools": Miss Janet G. Paterson (Head Teacher, Class for the Blind, Newark,

N.J.).

March 18th, 1921.

"Education of the Child with Seriously Defective Eyesight ": Mrs. Winifred Hathaway (Secretary, The National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness).

"Prevention of Blindness": Mrs. Winifred

Hathaway.

March 19th, 1921.

"Federal Board for Vocational Education": Mr. James P. Munroe (Vice-Chairman). April 1st, 1921.

"Functions of State Commissions for the Blind": Mr. Charles B. Hayes (Director. Massachusetts Department of Education, Division of the Blind); Miss Lydia Y. Haves (Chief Executive Officer, New Jersey Commission for the Blind); Miss Frances S. Reed (Executive Secretary, Ohio Commission for the Blind); Miss Cora E. Turner (Executive Secretary, The Delaware Commission for the Blind).

"Home Work" (a) Handiwork of Blind Women in their Homes; (b) Selling Merchandise Made by the Blind: Miss Frances S. Reed (Executive Secretary, Ohio Com-

mission for the Blind).

April 2nd, 1921.

"Relief-Pensions": Mr. Charles B. Hayes; Miss Frances S. Reed.

April 8th, 1921.

"Literature and Libraries for the Blind": The Development of Embossed Types, the Literature now Available in Tactile Print, and its Distribution to Readers by Libraries : Mrs. Emma R. N. Delfino (Chief, Department for the Blind, The Free Library of Philadelphia).

"The Matilda Ziegler Magazine": (a) Assembling Material and Printing a Monthly Magazine for the Blind; (b) A Few Suggestions to Old and Prospective Home Teachers: Mr. Walter G. Holmes (President and

Manager).

"The Education of Blinded Soldiers": Mr. Charles F. F. Campbell (Director, Red Cross Institute for the Blind, Baltimore, Md.; Editor, Outlook for the Blind).

April 9th, 1921.

"The Education of the Blind Child in Residential Schools": Mr. Edward M. Van Cleve (Principal, The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, New York City).

April 15th, 1921.

"Home Teaching": (a) The History of the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and Free Circulating Library for the Blind: Mrs. Isabel W. Kennedy (Secretary). (b) Home Teaching as Conducted in the State of New York: Miss Grace S. Harper (Secretary, New York State Commission for the Blind).

"State Re-education and Rehabilitation": Mr. S. S. Riddle (Chief, Bureau of Rehabilitation Department of Labor and Industry,

Harrisburg, Pa.).

April 16th, 1921.

"Physical Training and Athletics in Schools for the Blind." Lecture and Demonstration to be given at the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Overbrook, Philadelphia: Mr. Thomas S. McAloney (Supt. Western Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind, Pittsburg, Pa.).

April 22nd, 1921.

"Schools and Workshops for the Blind in Great Britain and Ireland": Lady Campbell (Formerly of the Royal Normal College for

the Blind, England).

"Structures of the Eye and their Functions, together with the Ocular Defects": Thomas B. Holloway, M.D. (Ophthalmologist, Pennsyvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind).

April 23rd, 1921.

"The National Institute for the Blind, Government Aid, Libraries and Other Agencies in Great Britain": Lady Campbell.

April 29th, 1921.

"Functions of a Private Organization for the Blind": Mr. W. H. Long (Executive Secretary, Pennsylvania Association for the

Blind, Pittsburgh, Pa.).

"Possibilities for Employment of the Blind among the Seeing": Mr. Liborio Delfino (Field Officer, The Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Overbrook, Philadelphia).

"Poultry Raising as a Vocation for the Blind": Mr. J. C. Graham (Professor, Poultry Husbandry, Massachusetts Agricultural Col-

lege, Amherst, Mass.).

April 30th, 1921.

"Recreations, Games, Amusements": Mr. Ernest L. Lindblad (Director, Manual Training, Girard College, Philadelphia. Formerly Teacher, Pennsylvania Institution for Instruction of the Blind).

"Ink-Print Books and Magazines," a Suggested Course of Reading for Seeing Workers: Mr. Olin H. Burritt (Principal, The Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Overbrook, Philadelphia).

May 6th, 1921.

"Workshops for Blind Men": Mr. Frederick H. Mills (Superintendent, Pennsylvania Working Home for Blind Men); Mr. John F. Bledsoe (Superintendent, The Maryland School for the Blind and Maryland Workshop for the Blind).

"The Employment of Blind and Seeing Workers Side by Side, from the Point of View of the Employer or Employment Manager": Mr. Roswell W. Henninger (Director of Employment-Service, The Miller Lock Company); Speaker from the Lestor Piano

Company.

May 7th, 1921.

"How Can We Provide Text Books on Methods of Teaching Blind Students": Mr. Robert B. Irwin (Supervisor, Department for the Blind, Board of Education, Cleveland, O.).

May 13th, 1921.

"What Is to be Done with the Blind Feeble-Minded": Mr. E. R. Johnston (Superintendent, New Jersey Training School for Backward Children, Vineland, N. J.); Dr. George J. Becht (First Deputy State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, Harrisburg, Pa.); Mr. Olin H. Burritt (Principal, The Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Overbrook, Philadelphia).

"The Intensive Study of Two Backward Children": Mrs. Jessie Royer Greaves (Teacher, Physical Expression, The Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of

the Blind).

Topic and Speaker to be announced later.

May 14th, 1921.

"How can Federal and State Boards for Vocat'onal Education Advance the Vocational Training of the Blind": Mr. Clifford B. Connelley (Commissioner, Department of Labour and Industry, Harrisburg, Pa.).

May 20th, 1921.

"Psychology of the Blind" (a) Introduction and Sensory Life of the Blind; (b) Perception; (c) Attention and Memory: Dr. Samuel P. Hayes (Department of Philosophy and Psychology, Mt. Holyoke College; Psychologist, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts Schools for the Blind).

"Life Insurance as a Profession for the Blind": Dr. Solomon S. Huebner (Professor of Insurance and Commerce, University of Pennsylvania).

May 21st, 1921.

Psychology of the Blind" (a) Imagination and Reasoning; (b) General Intelligence; (c) Emotional and Volitional Life: Dr. Samuel P. Hayes.

May 27th, 1921.

Topic and Speaker to be announced later.

"Opportunities for the Blind": Mr. Olin H. Burritt.

[Correspondence concerning these lectures should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Miss Lotta S. Rand, 313A Engineering Building, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.]

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[Copyright]

WHERE ENGLISH SKYLARKS SOAR AND SING

"Our native birds have given place to yours." $Godfrey\ Turner,\ New\ Zealander.$

AGAINST the sky the hillsides lean, Far up are clouds like smoke on high, Chased by the winds that blow unseen.

The many-coloured dragon-fly,
With beating opalescent wing,
Throbs its swift flight—while over

Throbs its swift flight—while over all Your English skylarks soar and sing.

Our bush is sombre, sullen, dark
With sheltered twilight, wet and green;
Your winter trees, though bare and stark,
Promise that Spring shall reign as Oueen

Promise that Spring shall reign as Queen, Your cities huddle to the streets, Resting 'neath fold on fold of smoke.

Gardens enclose our towns like rings; Yet you to us are linked as one— O'er us your English skylark sings.

Watching great rollers on the beach Breaking dead-white, like peaks of snow, I shall think back to warm, brown moors,

Where silver mists wisp to and fro;

Then I shall laugh, rememb'ring homes 'Neath roofs of thatch, and dreams will cling

Of poppies nodding in the wheat, O'er which your English skylarks sing.

But should I linger in your land, Sun and clear skies to me will bring Thoughts of tall hills and southern stars Where English skylarks soar and sing. Ethel M. Richardson Rice.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

MARCH, 1921

Bosom Friends, 3 vols
Refugees, 6 volsSir A. Conan Doyle
Great Cattle Trail, 3 vols
Mr. Martin's Man, 4 volsSt. John Ervine
Allegra, 4 vols
Gentle Grafter, 2 vols
Night and Morning, 9 volsLord Lytton
Young Barbarians, 4 vols Ian Maclaren
Hunters of the U-Boat, 2 volsJ. S. Margerison
A Private's Passion and other Stories, 1 vol.
R. Martin
Worth While, 1 vol
Mr. Wingrave—Millionaire, 4 vols.
E. P. Oppenheim
Old Man in the Corner, 4 volsBaroness Orczy
Simon Jasper (abridged), 4 vols
Tale of Pigling Bland (uncontracted Braille), 1 vol.
Beatrix Potter
Salt and Savour, 4 vols
Pearl Fishers, 3 vols
Whilst Father was Fighting, 1 vol E. H. Stook
Watch Below, 2 vols" Taffrail"
Wrong Door, 2 vols
MISCELLANEOUS
Lays of Love and Trust, 2 vols
Universal Text Book of Religion and Morals, 2 vols.
(Edited by) Annie Besant
History of Greece (in continuation) 1-12 vols.
J. Bury

H. H. Prichard
Trench Pictures from France, 1 vol.

R. Roberts
Builders of the Church and Prayer Book, 5, vol.,

Miss K. L. M. Rowton
Percy Bysshe Shelly, poet and pioneer, 1 vol.

H. S. Salt Problems of the Border Land, 2 vols.

* Stereotyped Books.

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the April Numbers

Progress, — Editor's Note—Some Curious Ways of Earning a Living, hv Clive Holland—That Donkey! by J. C. Bristow-Nohle—The Pedlar of Dreams (Poem)—The First Census—Our Prize Competitions—Garden Notes (April), hy "Melipona"—Correspondence—Easter Eggs and April Fish—Matters of the Moment—Romances of the City Guilds—St. Lucy's Watch—The Romance of a Postage Stamp—The Question Box—Chess—Our Home Page—Advertisements—Spring (Poem).

The Literary Journal.—The Terrible Meek, hy James Shannon—National Sports and National Metaphors, by Professor Ernest Weekley—The Capital Ship—The Church and Science, by Sir Frank Beaman—National Lihrary for the Blind—Massage Library—Embossed Literature for the Blind—Spring in London (Poem)—Reviews of Books—The Hospice of St. Bernard—Science and Crime Detection.

School Magazine.—A Day in Old Memphis, by Donald Mackenzie.—The Great Attack on Mount Everest—Bernard Pallissy—The London of Dickens, by Agnes M. Miall—Biography in Brief: David Garrick (1717-79)—The Mammoth—Aviation and its Development—Saint George of England—Queries —A Bucketful of Life.—Why do we not feel the Earth moving?

Comrades.—Finn and the Beautiful Fawn, 1, from the Ossianic Legends—An Intruder, by Lilian Fawcett—A Narrow Escape, 2 (Grade I) (to be continued), from Second Oxford Reading Book—Orpheus and Eurydice (Greek Myth)—Invitation (Poem), by Rose Fyleman—Puzzles—How the Crickets brought Good Fortune, from the French of P. J. Stahl—Man Overboard!

The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics,—The Development of Epiphyses and their Surgical Importance, by E. Catherine Lewis, M.S., F.R.C. S.—On the Importance of Muscular Relaxation in the Examination of Joints—Correspondence—Remedial Work in a Physically Defective Children's School—Notes by the Way—Official Notices.

Braille Musical Magazine.—Gervase Elwes—The National Institute for the Blind Edition—Music at the National Institute—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—Correspondence—Wisdom and Wit for the Organist—Recitals by Blind Orgánists at Holy Trinity Church, Tulse Hill, S. E.—Mr. De Lara's New Opera—From the Institutions—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews; Insets: Organ, "Triumphal March," by Hollins; Piano, "Noel," by Wolstenholme.

Santa Lucia.—Giant Race of White Cannibals— Japan's "Plum Pudding"—Cuckoo's Secret Out— St. Lucy's Watch Society of Watchers and Workers—National Library for the Blind—The Pawn's Count, chapters 24–25 (to be continued), by E. Phillips Oppenheim—Little People of Africa—A Wonderful Carpet—Loneliest Island in the World—The Merry

Heart, by I. S. Fletcher.

The Hampstead.—The Sisters Cadriano, by W. I. George—The Best Policy, by Vernon Ralston—The Queen's Housekeeper—Just "Bob"—What's your general now?—Fun in Grandma's Time—Golden Blooms—Who's Who, and Why.

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Mantle of the East (continued)—Reindeer Transport—Real Treasure Islands—Bridegrooms' Poor Memories—Torpedoes's Ears—For Ships at Sea—Pelf for Pelts.

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Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit. Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mines of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year, Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

BRAILLE BOOKS FOR SALE, in good condition.
The Bible, Prayer Book, and selections from well-known poets.—For full particulars, apply to Miss A.
HEATH, 6 Grove Road, Epsom, Surrey.

Frenchman, practically blind, would like to give FRENCH LESSONS 3s. per hour, or would exchange French for English.—Apply, M. LALLEMANT, 21 Telford Avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W.2.

The After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind would be glad to hear from people who could offer good homes in private families to blind-deaf persons of both sexes, at a nominal charge. Anyone who is able to offer this, should apply to:—The Superintendent, "After-Care Department," National Institute for the Blind, 8 Carburton Street, Great Portland Street, W. J.

URGENT.—A Lady (Sighted) is required to superintend S. Raphael's School for Blind Girls, Mandalay, Burma. Candidates, whose aim must be fundamentally Evangelistic, should possess qualifications for and experience of educational work among the Blind (especially in handicrafts), together with initiative and organising capacity. Salary 200 Rupecs per month with furnished rooms. Applications with testimonials should be sent to. — Miss D. H. Jackson, 105 Coleraine Road, Blackheath, S.E.3.

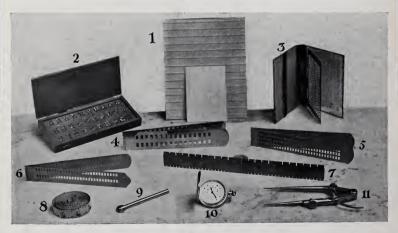
COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION
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cducation. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-Keeping,
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from Head Master, G. C. Brown, M. A.

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GAMES FOR THE BLIND.—Draughts, Russian Fives, Chess, Chess and Draughts Outfit, Cheery Families, Bridge and Whist Cards, Patience Cards.



APPARATUS FOR THE BLIND.—1 Correspondence Tablets; 2 Braillette Board; 3 Pocket Postcard Writing-Frame; 4 Two-lined Pocket-guide for Giant Dots; 5 Four-lined Pocket Frame: 6 Two-lined interlining Pocket Guide; 7 Brass Foot Rule; 8 Tape Measure; 9 Spur-wheel; 10 Braille Watch; 11 Compasses.



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

THE following publications are subject to a discount of seventy-five per cent. for readers who are resident in the British Isles, and to a discount of fifty per cent. for residents in the British Colonies and Dependencies.

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THE BEACON A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. V.-No. 54.

JUNE. 1921.

PRICE 3D.

EDITORIAL

BLIND RELIEF LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



It is exceedingly doubtful whether the average man or woman, when using the word "America," ever really comprehends the vastness of the territory which they so name. When it is remembered that America comprises an area more thanfourtimes the size of Europe, or twice the size of Europe and Africa, including territory of 16,500,000 square miles, it is not wonderful

that we should fail to appreciate the constitutional complexities set up by the various State Legislatures. We may add also, that the mixed character of the population doubtless presents difficulties that are unknown to us in this country. The census returns of 1910 show a total population of 101,467,302. In this total are included 81,732,687 whites, 9,828,294 negroes, 265,683 Indians, and 142,666 others of Mongol origin.

It will be generally true to say that in attempting to find a solution for the various problems associated with the care of the blind in Europe we have but little to learn from the United States of America in this direction, although it is equally true to affirm that if the rate of progress made in recent years in America is maintained, we who are concerned with such problems in this country will have cause to look to our laurels in the near future.

When we think of what has so far been accomplished under the Blind Persons Act

of 1920 we have little reason, as yet, at all events, to feel enthusiastic. Perhaps the most salient feature of the new legislation, and the one which most commends itself to our sense of appreciation, is the fact that about 6,000 blind persons in this country are receiving the full Government allowance of 10s. per week. This consideration alone is worth all the years of agitation and stress which were necessary in order to compel a reluctant Government to make some provision for the blind poor.

Turning to America and examining its relief arrangements embodied in various legislative enactments, we are certainly not impressed with the administration of such relief laws. The variety of the provisions made, the looseness of definitions employed, and the apparent lack of well-considered forms of administration, all combined, make us fearful of the inevitable results.

In the main we would suggest that arrangements made for the relief of distress should be uniform in their application, and be based upon well-considered and properly defined principles. These appear to be wholly lacking in the American administrations. It should be remembered, however, that the assistance given is in the main more tangible than can be obtained for similar purposes under our own Blind Aid Act, and whatever may be the defects of the American arrangements they are not characterised by that niggardliness which is invariably associated with our own financial arrangements.

In attempting to define what constitutes blindness, we have agreed upon a definition which asserts that a person may be regarded as blind when the defect in vision is such as to indicate inability to follow an occupation for which eyesight is essential.

It is interesting to observe the definitions employed by various States in America, a

few of which are here appended:

"The State of Maine defines blindness as one-tenth vision. Nebraska defines a blind person as one 'who is destitute of useful vision so as to be incapacitated for the performance of labour, rendering such person incapable of earning a support.' Ohio, New Hampshire and Idaho define a blind person as one who has a defect of vision incapacitating him to earn the necessities of life.

"According to the definition employed in the United States census a blind person is one who cannot see to read a book or other printed matter even with the aid of glasses."

"The maximum amount which officials are authorised by law to pay to any one blind relief applicant varies widely in different states. Illinois and New Hampshire have a maximum of 150 dollars; California and Idaho, 180; Maine and Ohio, 200; Iowa and Nebraska, 300; Colorado, 360; Kansas, under certain conditions, 600; while Wisconsin has, in cases of extreme poverty, theoretically no limit but that of the need of the applicant."

It will be generally conceded, therefore, that although there may be some glaring defects in the methods of administration employed by our American cousins, the thing to be remembered is that there is existing on the other side of the Atlantic a positive desire to give adequate relief, or perhaps, to put the case better, to give relief proportionate to the real necessities of the case, and this, after all, is the basic principle which should underlie every sane legislative proposal and be the only boundary beyond which the administrator has no legitimate right to traverse.

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CHEERFULNESS is a great moral tonic. As sunshine brings out the flowers and ripens the fruit, so does cheerfulness—the feeling of freedom and life—develop in us all the seeds of good—all that is best in us.

Avebury.

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THE wealth of a man is the number of things which he loves and blesses, which he is loved and blessed by. Carlyle.

YORKSHIRE CAMPAIGN FOR THE BLIND

THE audited accounts of the Yorkshire money-raising campaign, conducted by the National Institute for the Blind from April, 1919, to March, 1921, show that a gross sum of £68,829 1s. 9d. was raised, the net amount divisible being £54,546 0s. 6d. allocated as follows:—

					£	s.	đ.
Bra	dford Institution				8,001	12	11
Dev	wsbury and Batle	y			2,058	8	9
Wa	kefield Institution	i			788	19	10
Por	tefract Home Tea	chir	g Societ	y	. 100	0	0
Bar	nsley Home Teacl	ning	Society		251	1	6
*Hu	1 Institution		′		11,539	4	11
Lee	ds Institution				6,771		9
You	kshire School for	the	Blind		50		10
St.	Dunstan's				15,211	16	5
Nat	ional Institute for				9.772		
					.,	-0	

The sum of £9,641 18s. 1d. was absorbed in "Salaries and allowances," of which £3,670 7s. 6d. was paid to sighted workers and £5,971 10s. 7d. to blind canvassers. To this latter amount should be added £965 9s. 2d., being wages paid to the blind canvassers' guides. The total cost of collecting was just over 20 per cent., of which one half went in salaries to the blind and their necessary guides.

* In addition the Institute paid Hull Institution a full year's maintenance grant, running concurrently with the Campaign, amounting to £2,000.

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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND

THE next examination for the Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.19, will be held on the 2nd and 4th July. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the examination, must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years and be intending to remain resident. Application should be made to the Principal on or before Monday, June 20th.

OBITUARY 0000

WE much regret to have to record the death of Mr. Osmond L. Davage, F.R.C.O., which took place at Halstead on April 11th. Mr. Davage was trained at the Royal Normal College, and while there obtained his F.R.C.O. Diploma. He was appointed organist of Halstead Parish Church three years ago, and appears to have been greatly appreciated both as organist and teacher.

ST. DUNSTAN'S THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE



E have received the Sixth Annual Report of St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors for the year ended March 31st, 1921. The Report states that there are now 1,772 names on the books, that 106 newcomers were admitted during 1920, and that during the year 305 blinded soldiers completed their training and were set up in occupations which they

had mastered. Thus more than 1,200 men are already established at work.

The outstanding event for the year under review, as far as St. Dunstan's is concerned, is the removal of the Headquarters from the house and beautiful grounds loaned to Sir Arthur and his committee since 1915. The fine house in Regent's Park, St. Dunstan's, will always be associated with the work done on behalf of men blinded in the war, and it is interesting to learn that the new Headquarters of St. Dunstan's work, which is on the Inner Circle of the Park and close to the Royal Botanic Gardens, was the former residence of such famous people as the Marquis of Wellesley, Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid, and since then until a few years ago, of successive Marquises of Bute. In the latter days of the war it became a Red Cross Hospital liberally supported by Sir John Ellerman.

The Report covers all the multitudinous enterprises which have grown up around St. Dunstan's. Not the least interesting feature is the collection of letters from men who have been trained to "carry on" as useful members of society. The future of these men is watched over by the After-Care Department, which is under the direction of Captain Ian Fraser, one of the blinded officers. As masseurs, poultry-farmers, shorthand-typists, telephone operators, boot-repairers, mat-makers, St. Dunstaners are working all over the Empire. As regards massage, this branch of the training has met with astonishing

success. We learn that already 103 men have completed their training and have gained the certificate of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics. In London and its suburbs alone fifteen blinded masseurs are settled each with an up-to-date room for giving massage and electro-therapeutic treatments, while in the City of London a Massage Clinic has been established with conspicuous success. These men received their final training in the Massage School at the National Institute for the Blind.

Five Annexes at the seaside and in the country have been established to provide rest and recuperation for the men, while the St. Dunstan's private hospital at 14 Sussex Place, N.W.1. is a much needed adjunct to the organisation. It is to be remembered that many of the men from time to time require hospital treatment, and at Sussex Place they receive attention from the skilled surgeons who have so generously given their services to St. Dunstan's since it has been in existence, and—an important point—come again before specialists who know of their cases from the beginning.

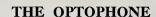
It is obvious from the Report that the need for the continuance of St. Dunstan's and its work must remain for a considerable number of years to come—indeed, the After-Care of the men will be continued for the rest of their lives. No fewer than 23,000 men were discharged from the Army on account of damaged eyesight, and it is sad to think that many of these may become blind.

We have only been able with the space at our disposal to make a brief mention of a Report which, we are sure, our readers will endeavour to read in full for themselves, and which truly forms a record of good work well done.

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LIKE a cheerful traveller, take the road singing.

Robert Browning



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INVENTION AND SOME OPINIONS AS TO ITS PRACTICABILITY



REQUENT references to the typereading Optophone in the Press during the past few months have led to not a little discussion in the blind world as to the possibilities of this reading apparatus, and it will, therefore, be of interest to our readers if we briefly outline the history of this invention and give some opinions as to its practicability and usefulness.

As long ago as 1912, Dr. Fournier d'Albe, then a Lecturer in Physics in the University of Birmingham, invented an instrument which he claimed would enable blind persons to discover lights and bright objects by ear. This was accomplished by utilising an element called selenium, which has the property of varying its conductivity of electricity in accordance with the amount of light to which it is exposed.

After two years' further work Dr. d'Albe produced an instrument which he called the "type-reading Optophone," by means of which blind people were to read ordinary ink print. This first rough instrument was shown at the International Conference on the Blind at Westminster in 1914, and also at the Royal Society. By 1917 he had worked out another model which he submitted to the National Institute for the Blind. In the course of a test, he read blindfold an unknown passage from The Times, but this experiment was not successful. The examiners were not at that time satisfied with the instrument. In 1918, the inventor brought out a further model with which Miss Jameson, a blind pupil from South Norwood, gave demonstrations at the British Scientific Products Exhibition, reading passages chosen by the public from a printed book. On the recommendation of Sir Reginald Bacon, who presided at some of these tests, Professor Barr, head of the well-known firm of instrument makers, Messrs. Barr & Stroud, Ltd .names that will be remembered by artillerymen who used the firm's famous range-finder

—took an interest in the apparatus and experimented upon it. In due course the present Optophone appeared, and again claims were put forward that blind people could read ink-print. The newspapers began to speak in true "journalese" of the wonderful revolution that was to take place in the world of the blind, and many enquiries were addressed to Sir Arthur Pearson and others on the subject.

Since its inception, the National Institute for the Blind, of which Sir Arthur Pearson is President, has been the leading organisation in the British Empire and probably in the world that has made itself responsible for production and adaptation of apparatus for the use of the blind, and about this time in the history of the Optophone a definite authority called the Inventions and Research Committee was formed at the Institute to deal with all matters relating to mechanical and scientific appliances for the blind and recommend to the Institute what action should be taken in connection with them. Captain Ian Fraser, a member of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind, is Chairman of this Committee. About a year ago this Committee visited the offices of Messrs, Barr & Stroud and discussed the instrument with their London director, intimating their intention to give the apparatus a thorough testing.

An instrument was subsequently purchased by and installed at the National Institute for the Blind, and two capable blind members of the staff were released from their ordinary duties to devote a suitable amount of time each day to learning the system. The original inventor, Dr. Fournier d'Albe, offered his services as instructor, and arrangements were duly made with him for regular supervision of the class. Eight months have now passed and a series of tests have been made. Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind, undertook these tests, and we quote the following from his report:—

"I have tested Miss Green's reading on the Optophone on seven different occasions, each test being of thirty minutes' duration and on 'unseen matter.'

 Extract from 'Heroes of the Darkness,' eighty-five words in thirty minutes, say three words per minute.

(2) Extract from leading article of Daily Telegraph, sixty words in thirty minutes—two words per minute.

(3) Extract from 'Optimism':-

Test (a) Eighty-nine words in thirty minutes, say three words per minute. Test (b) Seventy-eight words in thirty minutes, say two-and-a-half words per minute.

Test (c) Sixty-four words in thirty minutes, say two words per minute.

(4) Extract from 'The World I Live In,' sixty-five words in thirty minutes, say

two words per minute.

(5) Extract from 'Pier's Plowman Histories, Junior, Book II,' 119 words in thirty minutes, say 4 words per minute. "It will thus be seen that the average speed is under three words per minute. Although slow the reading was accurate, very few words being unread or miscalled. Short and easy words of frequent recurrence were read with comparative ease, the reader evidently taking the word as a whole without analysing into letters. This is borne out by the last test, which was from a junior school book in everyday English. Long and uncommon words, particularly those containing little used letters as 'z,' caused much delay and consequently brought down the averages. Towards the close of a test the reading became slower, demonstrating the fact that until it becomes mechanical it will be tiring. This was obvious in the last test, when Miss Green read the first twenty-four words in four minutes, or six words per minute. This condition exists in a very marked degree in tactile reading, learners always being recommended to take their lessons in small 'doses.'

"Notwithstanding this, I am assured by Miss Green that she does not experience any tired feeling. Further, she assures me that the process of listening neither prevents her from grasping the full import of what she has read nor detracts from the enjoyment which

she ordinarily gets out of reading.

" Miss Green manipulated the instrument quite unaided, and occupied less than two minutes in placing her book in it ready for reading. "I am informed by Mr. Emblen, the other Optophone student, that my tests, while perfectly fair, do not do justice to Miss Green. This is doubtless due to the fact that examinations of all kinds rarely show the examinee in the best light.

"In preparing this report I have had two main issues in mind, all others being in my indement quite subordinate to these two. The first is, can blind people read ordinary ink-print matter? The reply to this is emphatically yes. The second is, can they read at a speed which would make it worth their while to adopt the Optophone as a reading instrument? On this point I have already shown that speed is slow, but as a set-off against this it should be borne in mind, first, that no one has had adequate practice upon it, and secondly, that the right type of learner has not been tested. After mature consideration I have come to the conclusion that tests should be made on young children in a school for the blind, and that the same facilities should be afforded them as for tactile reading. In the latter this period extends over a number of years, and fluency is only attained after long practice. While I am inclined to think that tactile reading will be more easily acquired than reading by means of the Optophone, it must be borne in mind that the literature available through the former is relatively small, but through the latter world-wide and unlimited.

"There are many other points which deserve close consideration, for example, the costliness, delicacy and intricacy of the instrument, and the facility for placing the reading matter in it, but I do not consider that these are at the moment matters of vital importance. The outstanding point which

requires to be decided is speed.'

We should add that Miss Jameson, who is employed by Messrs. Barr & Stroud to demonstrate the instrument, is stated to have attained a speed of thirteen words per minute over a whole paragraph, and a linear speed of seventeen words per minute, though at a demonstration recently given by her to representatives of the Inventions and Research Committee of the National Institute for the Blind she did not exceed five words per minute.

These are the only facts we have to go upon, and we must now, therefore, leave facts behind and turn to theory, which, based as it is upon such a small amount of experience, is by no means reliable. The

inventor, Professor Barr, and Mr. C. P. MacCarthy, who has interested himself in the Optophone, are of the opinion that with practice very considerable speeds will be attained. The inventor, indeed, looks forward to 200 words a minute as being possible. The representatives of the National Institute for the Blind and St. Dunstan's are frankly not so sanguine, and are unanimous in the opinion that adult blind persons would not be able to attain a greater speed than thirty or thirty-five words per minute, the speed which is reached by expert telegraphists in reading the Morse code, and that even such a rate of reading would not become possible unless a long period were devoted to the subject without interruption. They look forward, however, with keen interest to the tests which Mr. Stainsby suggests should be made with young children, and the policy of the Institute will be to use its influence to further such tests in every possible way. The representatives of the National Institute put forward their opinion reluctantly, for they do not want it to be felt that they are pre-judging a piece of apparatus which is as ingenious in its design as it is masterly in execution. They feel that the greatest praise is due to the inventor, Dr. Fournier d'Albe. for having applied the very elusive property of that curious metal selenium to such a noble purpose, and to Professor Barr, who has himself devoted very much of his valuable time to improving the original invention and a large amount of his firm's capital to placing it on the market. They realise, however, that blind people all over the world require to be guided in their decision as to whether or not they should obtain one of these instruments, and when asked for an opinion, as they frequently are, it is their obvious duty to give it frankly without prejudice and without regard to any interests except those of the blind whom they are advising.

So far we have dealt exclusively with the question of speed and ease of reading, and we must now turn to the instrument itself. It will be noted from Mr. Stainsby's report, and the present writer can confirm it from his own observations, that it is perfectly possible for a blind person, after suitable training, to adjust the book or article that is to be read in the machine, and though in Miss Green's case this was stated to have taken only a minute or two, and though this time is relatively long, taking into consideration the fact that a page of ordinary print

contains about 200 words, and that practically the same adjustment has to be made every time a page is turned over, it is anticipated that these difficulties are capable of being considerably reduced. There remains, however, one point which we have not discussed, and that is the actual care of the instrument and the question as to whether or not an average blind person could keep it in perfect running order in his own home. As a matter of fact the apparatus is a delicate one, and though its construction renders it as fool-proof as possible, taking into consideration its complicated nature, it must be borne in mind that unless it is used in a building in which electric current is laid on a set of accumulators is required, and these have to be charged at fairly frequent intervals, while in addition a battery consisting of a number of dry cells has to be employed, and this requires renewing, though fortunately at not very frequent intervals.

What, then, is the position? The National Institute for the Blind will themselves arrange for Miss Green to continue studying the Optophone for a long period of time so as to watch her increase in speed. They will do all that is possible to influence the Board of Education, the Ministry of Health, or any other public body which has funds at its disposal, to further experiments with young children, and they hope that every institution which has funds available for experimental and research work will do the same.

As regards the individual adult blind person, taking into consideration the expense of the machine, its complicated nature, and the fact that the possibility of attaining a useful rate of speed in a reasonable time has not yet been proved, they are unwilling to advise investment in an instrument unless the student is a person of independent means who will find recreation in using a very beautiful piece of mechanical and scientific apparatus, and has sufficient time at his disposal to devote at least a couple of hours a day to practice for a considerable time.

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AFTER sixty-three years of unbroken service—never having missed a single Sunday at the organ—Mr. Alfred Adams, the totally blind organist at the parish church of St. Lawrence, Hawkhurst, Kent, has just resigned. Mr. Adams has been blind since the age of 6, when an accident destroyed the sight of one eye. The other speedily became affected. He was appointed church organist at the age of 17.





N the April issue of The Child there appears an interesting paragraph concerning the useful work accomplished by the American National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness in New York, with especial reference to a valuable booklet prepared by the Secretary, Mrs. Winifred Hathaway, entitled "Manual for Conservation of Vision Class."

The aim of this pamphlet is to assist in the establishment and conduct of classes for the

conservation of good eyesight.
"It is time," writes the contributor to The Child, "that there was a greater development of these classes in this country. Mrs. Hathaway's manual provides a full history of the development of sight-saving classes in America. The brochure is most generously illustrated, and admirably portrays by striking pictures the essentials of the equipment and the character of the work as carried out in America. We hope all school medical officers and other medical advisors having to deal with children who are handicapped by impaired sight will make a point of studying Mrs. Hathaway's informing manual. We venture to quote the section dealing with medical school inspection in its relation to conservation of vision classes: "Where medical inspection of school children is adequately provided for, examination is made of the eyes of each pupil at the time he enters school and at least once a year thereafter during his school life. Under such conditions eve defects and diseases are found early enough to prevent serious outcome in many cases. A careful study made in two cities in Ohio shows interesting results. In the larger community, where medical school inspection is very thorough, there was found to be a proportion of one child to every 1,200 of the school population requiring the special advantages of a sightsaving class; in the smaller place, where there is practically no medical school inspection,

the proportion is found to be one child to every 250 of the school population. In the latter the records show that 331 per cent. of the children were returned to the regular grade at the end of the first year, whereas in the former 16 per cent, were so returned; it would, therefore, seem that thorough medical school inspection, by giving proper examinations and by arranging where necessary for refraction and treatment, keeps out of the conservation of vision classes a large percentage of children who would otherwise need a year's special care in a sight-saving class. In the great majority of cities medical school inspectors and school nurses have far too large a number of children under their jurisdiction to insure entrance and yearly examinations. It must likewise be remembered that no matter how efficient a school physician may be, the very nature of his work requires that he be a general practitioner, not an eye specialist, so that with even the best medical school inspection cases slip through and eve conditions are not discovered until the child becomes a candidate for a conservation of vision class. The ideal, of course, is to have every child's eyes examined by an ophthalmologist. Under existing conditions the grade teacher must be depended upon for much assistance. She is not expected to diagnose, she is forbidden to treat, but it is her function to make individual observations. If a child squints, puckers his forehead, complains of headache, is easily tired, is cross-eyed, has difficulty in seeing the black-board, holds his book too close to his face or too far from it, or fails to make the average progress, the teacher should report the case for special examination. If, as a result of this, eye trouble is discovered, the matter should be taken up with the parents by the school nurse. If parents are able to have proper treatment, yet refuse to do so, action should be taken in the interest of the child. If parents cannot afford proper care, arrangements should be made to have the child taken to an

ophthalmologist, or to the best eye clinic available: if possible the school nurse should accompany him, so that directions may be understood and followed. If, when every help has been given, the child's vision cannot be brought up to an accepted standard, he becomes a candidate for a conservation of vision class.' Two distinct systems have been evolved for carrying on this work: (1) Children with defective vision are segregated in special classes. (2) Children with defective vision are considered regular students in the grade, but go to the special room for individual instruction and assistance in any work requiring intensive use of the eves. The advantages and disadvantages of these types of class are fairly discussed, and the conclusion is arrived at that 'the co-operative system is thought to offer by far the greatest advantages and to be hampered by the fewest objections.' We cannot close this all too brief notice of a beneficent form of service without reproducing Mrs. Hathaway's concluding sentences: 'The best recommendation for conservation of vision classes comes from the children themselves. They never want to leave when the dismissal bell sounds. They are not truants, although while in the regular grade truancy was perhaps their greatest fault. They are interested, and interest is the magic word in education. They grow independent, because they must learn to do things for themselves. They become confident, for through confidence their trust is won. They go forth messengers of light, because they have been saved from darkness.'"

In the leading article of the same issue Sir Leslie Mackenzie, Medical Member of the Scottish Board of Health, gives a summary of the Chairman's remarks at the last Annual Meeting of the Scottish Midwives Association. The article is too long to quote in its entirety, and we must content ourselves with quoting Sir Leslie's remarks concerning infantile ophthalmia. In parenthesis we may state that a Register of Midwives was established in England nearly twenty years ago, whilst in Scotland such register has only existed for five years:—

"The precautions possible even in the evil surroundings of the worst housing are frequently neglected . . . But there is one condition which I should like to emphasise, and it does not depend on housing. It depends on the condition of the mother before the birth and on the competence of the midwife after her immediate service is rendered. I mean the occurrence of ophthalmia neonatorum. All trained midwives know that gonorrhœal infection of the eye is probably the most prolific cause of blindness. Yet such cases continue to recur. Considerable numbers are notified every year. The tale of spoiled eyes continues to repeat itself. So long as this can be said, the work of the midwife cannot be freed from reproach. Not long ago, in the Outer Hebrides, tetanus neonatorum was so common that it came to be known as 'the disease of the seventh day,' or possibly the third day. It was regarded as almost a normal incident in the newborn child's life. Occasionally, I believe, cases still occur; and to any one who knows the sanitary conditions of the Outer Hebrides the wonder is that every second child does not suffer. But this terrific infection has almost vanished before the few simple precautions that ought to be part of the religion of every midwife. Whatever be the cause, whether want of knowledge, or want of skill, ophthalmia neonatorum is still too frequent. It ought not to occur at all. If this or any other Association can help, by education or any administrative measure, to secure that the professional midwife shall not be associated with a preventable disease like gonorrhœal ophthalmia, they will do a great public service. If the right precaution is taken, the prevention of gonorrhoal infection of the eyes is not merely possible but extremely simple. I cannot but feel that the persistence in the stream of cases means that the work of midwifery has been taken perhaps by medical men as well as by midwives somewhat too lightly and the future history of the child has not been imaginatively realised."

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY

The following have been added to the Massage Library:—

Essentials of Medical Electricity, by E. P. Cumberbatch (new edition), in five vols.

The Psychoneuroses and their Treatment by Psychotherapy, by Professor J. Dejerine and Dr. E. Gauckler, in nine vols.

Orthopædic Treatment of Poliomyelitis, by H. A. T. Fairbank. (Pocket edition).

FILM STUDIO LIGHTS

THE Departmental Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness, to whom the Ministry of Health referred the complaint of the Actors' Association regarding the danger to the eyesight of film artists from the latest form of studio lighting,

had an opportunity recently of seeing the new American Sun Light Arc lamp in actual use at the Stoll Film Company's premises at Cricklewood.

The demonstration was arranged in accordance with the desire expressed by Dr. R. Farrar. the medical secretary of the Committee, to witness the production of a film play. For the benefit of the Committee, Mr. "Teddy" Arundel, one of the oldest English cinema actors, and other artists were filmed in a variety of short episodes under the dazzling glare of the great Sun Light Arc. There are three of these

e n or m o u s lamps in Messrs. Stoll's studios, and each is capable of giving an illumination of 400,000 candle power.

It was explained to the Committee by the company's experts that this lamp, which is made by a New York firm, is the nearest approach to actual sunlight which modern lighting science has been able to achieve. It is not denied that it is dangerous to the eyes if one looks directly into its rays, but the same effect would be produced by looking directly at the sun without proper protection in the form of tinted glasses. The Stoll Company have had these lights in use for six months past, and the Cricklewood manager stated that he had only received two complaints, both of which were due,

he urged, to the negligence of the artists themselves. At the entrance to the studio there is a conspicuous notice warning those who enter the building thattheyshould always wear the special goggles which the firm provide for all who ask for them. These glasses, the notice states. should be worn continuously. except during what in technical language is called the "shooting."

The Committee spent more than an hour in the studio and made a thorough investigation of the use of the light with and without a diffuser. The illumination is so powerful that it is difficult to



Photo: Sunday Pictorial
BLIND GIRL STEREOTYPING THE METAL PLATES FOR PRINTING
MUSIC FOR THE BLIND BY THE NEW PROCESS.

understand how anyone with even the strongest eyesight can stand it. The company state however, that with proper precautions the harmful effects are negligible. Persons with weak eyes, they contend, ought not to engage in kinema acting. Times.

VULCANISING FOR BLINDED SOLDIERS



MONGST the trades and occupations adopted by blinded soldiers in America is that of motor-car tyre vulcanising. Through the medium of "The Outlook for the Blind" we learn that during the summer of 1919 a course of training in motor mechanics and repairs was established by the Red Cross Institute for the Blind. One phase of the training was that of

learning to repair punctures in the inner tubes of motor-car tyres, and shortly afterwards it was suggested that the trade of vulcanising offered another opportunity for employment for the blind. Consequently an investigation of the whole subject was initiated. In practically all the Army corps throughout the country a thorough course of tyre vulcanising was being given at the time. Aided by the co-operation and advice of an officer who had for some months past been conducting the vulcanising course for the Army, a shop for the training of blind men in this trade was equipped and the services of a practical vulcaniser secured. Damaged tyres were supplied by the Army, to which they were returned when repaired. The following year a commercial shop was opened close to the institution, with the object of offering additional trade advantages to the men taking the course.

The actual training in vulcanising as administered at present is divided into four phases defined by *The Outlook* as follows:—

"(1) A thorough training in all the various operations that are required to tear down, build up and cure a tyre, as conducted in the educational shop.

"(2) A series of twenty-four talks on the business aspects of operating a shop given to groups of men about to finish the actual trade training.

"(3) A business training and contact with the customer as conducted in the commercial shop operated by the school. "(4) A placement training in some local

vulcanising shop.

"The work that a man learns to do in the educational shop is the practical manual operations, under the guidance of men trained in and conversant with the methods used by the leading tyre manufacturing establishments of the country. He first begins by repairing small punctures in tubes and curing them. This is easy to do, and therefore requires but a short time to learn. Next he is taken through the operations of repairing casings. He learns to cut out the defective section and clean the tyre to free it of all dirt and foreign matter. Then he applies the cement and cuts his materials to be used in making the repair. The pieces of gum and fabric are built into the tyre in the proper manner and he cures the finished job in the steam-heated moulds of the vulcaniser. Two simple special tools have been devised and constructed for his use, a Braille rule with an adjustable slide, which he can measure by touch, and a marking gauge and cutting guide. With the exception of these he is able to do all the operations required successfully by using the tools designed for sighted workers. The tyres he works upon are purchased from tyre junk piles, and therefore the repairs are often more difficult to make than he will usually find in his business.

"When the men are about to finish this training in the educational shop they are given a series of talks relating to rubber, tyres and the tyre repair business. Such subjects are treated as the cultivation of rubber, the history of the pneumatic tyre, the manufacture of rubber, the manufacture of rubber, the manufacture of automobile tyres, the methods of starting a business, the methods to use in keeping records of work and accounts, the care of equipment, the advice to customers as to the care of tyres, the manner in which to secure business, and various other business methods."

In the commercial shop all the tyres worked upon are customers' jobs; no man may work in this shop until he can prove that his work is adequate. A valuable feature of this training is the fact that here the worker comes into contact with the customer. He is obliged to change tyres, and thus become acquainted with different style rims. He sees how jobs come into the shop and learns what kinds of jobs are most numerous. He learns, furthermore, how a tyre repair business is managed, and is afforded the opportunity of giving actual assistance in the management of the shop.

Extensive as this training may appear, it is not considered to be complete. When still at work in the commercial shop of the institute the blind operator is still under the guidance of the staff and unconsciously turns to its members when difficulties arise. He is in this way prevented from developing selfreliance. Therefore, in order to supplement the work, a location in some local shop is obtained, where the man will be forced to rely entirely upon his own resourcefulness and do satisfactory work without close supervision of the institute instructors. This position also offers an opportunity for him to become acquainted with another method of doing the work and to learn different "tricks of the trade" which are always found in every shop.

When a man has satisfactorily completed this prescribed course in vulcanising, the Federal Board for Vocational Education and the management of the Red Cross Institute for the Blind are ready to help him in obtaining work. Such a man is equipped so that he can obtain permanent employment in some vulcanising shop if he so desires, or he can start his own business with at least some assurance and confidence that he will succeed.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND

I N view of the passing of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, the Minister of Health has reconstituted the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind so as to afford representation to the Local Authorities under the Act and to Voluntary Agencies for the Blind, and the following have been appointed members of the Committee:—

Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts, M.P. (Chairman); P. M. Evans, Esq. LL.D. (Vice-Chairman); Mr. Alderman F. Askew; A. M. Bernard, Esq.; Miss Winifred Bramhall; Sir Coles Child, Bt.; H. Davey, Esq.; James Graham, Esq.; Mr. Councillor J. A. Hill; Sir William Hodgson; T. Holt, Esq.; A. L. Lowe, Esq., C.B.E.; G. F. Mowatt, Esq., J.P.; H. J. Munro, Esq., J.P.; Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E.; Mrs. Wilton Phipps, J.P.; Rev. P. S. G. Propert, M.A.; R. Richardson, Esq., M.P.; and W. H. Tate, Esq., J.P.

The Committee will advise the Minister on matters relating to the care and supervision of the blind, including any question that may be specially referred to them by the Minister. Mr. F. M. Chapman, of the Ministry of Health, will act as secretary.

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A HOSTEL FOR BLIND WOMEN

THERE has recently been opened at 21 and 22 Blackhall Street, Dublin, in memory of W. Rochfort Wade, M.A., the late secretary of the Irish Branch of the National Institute for the Blind, a hostel for blind women pensioners, known as the Rochfort Wade Hostel. A scheme has been initiated by which the rooms in this hostel are sub-let to parties of one or two blind women with their sighted guide or companion.

It is thought that by this means happy and independent homes will be secured for these blind women, and it is further hoped that the hostel will be entirely self-supporting. Amongst those who have worked most energetically to secure a successful inauguration is Mrs. Rochfort Wade.

Under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, blind people at the age of fifty, when not immates of a Poor Law Institution, become entitled to a pension of 10s. per week, supplemented by 7s. 6d. from the Board of Guardians, their guides receiving 10s. weekly. Unfortunately a number of men pensioners are still in the Union who cannot avail themselves of the advantages of the Act, owing to a lack of suitable accommodation in the city. It is much to be desired that there should be a hostel for men pensioners, and it is hoped that the matter will be taken up by an energetic committee and carried to a suitable issue.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

R. J. BULMAN SMITH, M.A., who has recently been appointed Assistant Secretary and Students' Librarian to the National Library for the Blind, 18 Tufton Street, Westminster, lost his sight when only three months old. He was educated at various schools and took his degree at

Cambridge (History Tripos).

Failing to obtain tutorial work in his own country, and hearing that a teacher of English in Germany would be likely to prosper, Mr. Bulman Smith in 1904 made his way, quite alone, first to Dresden and afterwards to Berlin, where he gradually built up an excellent connection among the aristocracy and in diplomatic circles. During the earlier part of the war Mr. Bulman Smith and his wife remained in Berlin, but in 1916 they were repatriated, leaving all their worldly goods behind them.

During the next three years he held the post of Head-master of the Sunderland School for the Blind, and subsequently joined the Staff of the National Institute for the Blind, attached to the Newcastle-on-Tyne branch. He has had considerable experience as a concert singer, and has also held various organ appointments.

In his work for the National Library, Mr. Bulman Smith will have in view the

following objects :-

(1) To make the claims of the Library

better known to the general public.

(2) To develop more intimate relations between the Library and its readers, with a view to a better understanding of their needs and desires.

(3) To devise some means of acquainting the readers with the nature of the books included in the catalogue and in the supplementary lists published from time to time in various periodicals.

(4) To promote, where possible, the formation of study circles, and to give advice in connection with special courses of reading.

(5) To encourage the study of foreign languages, and thus increase the usefulness of the Library's foreign section.

Mr. Bulman Smith will welcome any suggestions as to how these objects can best

be attained.

PRINTERS' AND STATIONERS' EXHIBITION

THE Sixth International, Printing, Stationery and Allied Trades Exhibition was held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, from April 30th to May 14th. Those connected with the printing and allied industries were afforded an excellent opportunity of becoming acquainted with the latest developments of their business, and the general public found much that was both fascinating and instructive in the numerous exhibits.

An interesting feature of the Exhibition was afforded by a stand devoted to the work of the National Institute for the Blind. Here blind operators were to be seen preparing the metal plates for the embossing machine, which was also to be seen at work, whilst a sightless worker was manipulating the Stainsby-Wayne Braille writer, and another the Stainsby-Wayne Braille shorthand writer. Other items of interest included picture-books and maps for the blind, beautiful models, educational appliances, Braille watches and clocks, games, such as chess, draughts and dominoes, and other contrivances which give sight to the blind through their fingers.

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HEARING FOOTBALL

NE of the most enthusiastic of Portsmouth's football supporters is a blind man. Mr. W. J. Patter lives at Palmyra-road. Gosport, and he walks, with his guide, to Fratton Park, about five miles, on every occasion that Portsmouth are engaged at home.

"I enjoy the game very much," he says, "and I have been to Fratton Park every match this season and nearly every one last season. Of course I have to have a guide with me, who explains the progress of the game, which I can follow as well as when I had my sight.

"When I was going through my training at St. Dunstan's I often went to some of the London matches. I was a player once, and have played several times at Fratton Park."

Mr. Patter can follow much of the game by sound_the cries of the crowd, the cheers, and the whistle of the referee.







ANY aspects in the psychology of the blind have been discussed, and in all probability the title of this small article has been used before. But I venture to revive it in the hope that others may attack the problem and throw more light on it than I am able to do. Briefly, the point that puzzles me is this: "Why should the faces of the blind

reveal their emotions so much less than do the faces of the sighted—always supposing that there does exist this interesting distinction?" I am not altogether competent to judge. If I could wander round examining the features of my blind friends, I could assure myself on the fixity or mobility of their countenances. But I cannot do this. I therefore have to accept the opinion given me by various sighted persons that we blind are on the whole careful not to reveal our feelings. Why should this be so?

One is at first tempted to suggest that it is pure and reasonable laziness. If we took toll of all the varying conversations which must be endured in the course of a day, the discovery would be made that only a certain proportion was of sufficient interest to us to make us forget our whereabouts and the passage of time. It is expected of us that we sit gazing with rapt eyes at our companions with a constantly changing expression of face. Now a blind man cannot so gaze into his partner's eyes; he has no temptation to do so. He is able to follow the course of the conversation quietly and analytically, and to answer appropriately when his turn comes. He soon discovers his freedom, and in time freedom becomes a mental habit to him. He allows himself to do what he would have done years ago if etiquette had permitted - to become sensibly lazy and economical of effort. He takes advantage of his handicap to improve his mental reserves.

But there are other considerations to be surveyed before we can decide on the blind man's lack of expression. I would like to put forward three separate considerations, believing that they all contributed in producing the psychological phenomenon we are discussing.

First of all there is the influence of "Imitation." Now man is essentially an imitative animal. We smile almost automatically when we see a stranger smiling at us. One vawner will set a whole 'bus-load yawning; and a cry of fear will cause a pang of alarm to run through every man who hears it. Babies of a certain age can be inflenced into amazing contortions of the face if somebody stands opposite grimacing at them. Some folk are more prone to this instinctive "imitation" of facial expression than are others; there are, for example, men who cannot possibly watch a wink or a twist of the mouth without unconsciously imitating it themselves. As a matter of fact we all imitate our neighbours. Facial expression is communicated from one person to another, and if the eyes are removed the imitation does not exist. One may vawn and smile before a blind man without in any way influencing him. He may imitate the tones of the voice, modes of expression, even movements of the body; but he cannot imitate expressions of the face. This huge type of stimulus is cut away from him, and instead of sitting opposite his friend. nodding and smirking at him, he merely drinks in the spoken words and in due time makes his answer to them.

The next point is that a blind man is deprived of one great weapon in the battle of life, the ability to watch his neighbour's countenance. If a person in full possession of his sight enters a room, an office, or a court, he gathers something of the attitude of the occupants by the expression of their faces, long before a word is spoken; and, as the business proceeds, he watches his opponent's expression as the timekeeper watches the fingers of his clock. Unable to do this. and aware that the sighted persons can make signals to each other if they wish, without detection from himself, the blind man is bound to fight the world with its own weapons. He cannot distinguish the feelings of his neighbours from their faces; very good, neither shall they be able to detect his own feelings from his face. He must retain his own council in and out of season, and economise his mental effort towards balancing and replying to his neighbour's remarks. This mental attitude is extended to every occasion To a blind man many strange, and, for the moment, inexplicable things are bound to happen. If we are sighted, we immediately

turn our eyes towards any curious and alarming sound and ascertain its cause. This a blind man is unable to do. Even in the most desperate circumstances he has to be bravely reserved-to wait until his course of action becomes plain to him. He learns an immense patience. He learns quite coolly, and as part of the day's work, to sit still with a face of marble, waiting till something shall give him a clue as to the situation.

Finally, when we analyze it, we realise all that expression of features means in a sighted community. When two friends, two

lovers, meet, all the little interchanges of look and nod mean almost as much to them as the interchange of words. It is a mass of silent language, that is immensely primitive in humanity, and which nothing can altogether replace. But the blind man, losing it, feels instinctively that he must try to replace it by other means. He struggles to express his feelings by the tones of his voice and the pressure of his hands rather than by transmitting elaborate nods and winks and smiles that may never reach their destination. He caresses with his voice and fingers rather than with his smile. He bullies with his tones and his stamping foot rather than by his 0000 F. Le G. C. GUILD OF BLIND GARDENERS

THERE has recently been founded a Guild of Blind Gardeners, the object of which is to encourage in every way possible the blind and partially blind to undertake gardening as a healthy and interesting oc-

> cupation. Each member of the suild is asked to subscribe annually not less than ten shillings. Each blind gardener is charged one shilling on being registered as a member. Donors of ten guineas become life members of the guild.

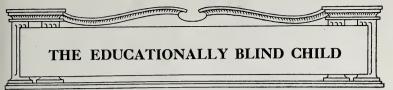
Rose Society has kindly consented this year to have a special class for blind gardeners at their annual show held at the

The National

THE BLIND HOMER (From the Bust in the British Museum)

Botanic Gardens in June. If the blind exhibitors are unable to bring their roses to the show themselves, the guild will make arrangements for the exhibits to be sent to London for them.

Communications on the subject should be addresed to the Hon. Sec., Mrs. R. Wombwell, 54 Hamilton Terrace, N.W.8.



T a three days' Conference which was recently held at Edinburgh under the auspices of the Association of School Medical Officers of Scotland (Dr. J. M. Wattie, H.M. Inspector of Schools, presiding), a paper was read by Dr. Angus MacGillivray on "The Educationally Blind Child."

Dr. MacGillivray stated that

the educationally blind child

was one who suffered from any ocular condition which would be seriously aggravated by ordinary school work, and which would thereby materially retard his own education, and in turn that of his class-What was to be done with the educationally blind child? Obviously he must be educated in a special school. Children who sat well up and held their work well back seldom had any ophthalmic handicap. Dealing with the condition which was the cause of upwards of sixty per cent. of the cases of severe defective sight met with in school children, viz., myopia, or short sight, he said that the myopic child was not born, he was made. Myopia was exceedingly rare in newly-born children, and it was not common amongst the younger children at school, but appeared as they ascended the educational ladder. The rational treatment of short sight should be based on an accurate knowledge of the causes producing the condition. Holding a book too near to the eyes and stooping over the work, especially in bad light and bad hygienic environment, were fertile causes of the disease. Proper posture while at work should therefore be insisted on. The children in the Myope School were not allowed to do close work; they were educated by blackboard teaching, no books being allowed, the teacher being the book, but these children were allowed to mix with the ordinary school children in oral work. The chief feature of the teaching in the Blind School was that the pupils were taught to do their work sitting in the erect posture, stooping being strictly prohibited. Experience showed that after a few weeks' trial the child in the Blind School was quite independent of his eves for near work. He learned to read his Braille by touch, and the eyes were accordingly allowed complete rest from all forms of near work, thus affording a better chance of recovery than by any other means. Should the eyes regain useful function, after a time ordinary reading might be resumed, but should the inflammatory condition at the back of the eyes persist, the pupils had quite a valuable means of adding to their knowledge by being able to read fluently their Braille books with pleasure and contentment. The number of volumes provided for the blind by city and rural libraries was ever increasing, and the varied literature left little to be desired. So fond of reading were the children in the Dundee Blind School that they took their Braille books to bed with them, and, concealing them beneath the bedclothes, read them unobserved. Home lessons for the young myopic child should be dispensed with, and promiscuous reading be discouraged. The child should be as much as possible in the open air, and the necessity for correct posture while at work should be carefully explained to parents and child, and the dangers of infringement brought home to them.

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THE HENRY J. WILSON DINNER AND TESTIMONIAL

IT is proposed that a dinner and testimonial be given on Thursday, June 23rd, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of the Gardner Trust for the Blind for 40 years, who in July next is relinquishing his connection with the Trustandother Societies for the Blind. Full particulars can be obtained from Mr. Guy M. Campbell, Principal, Royal Normal College for the Blind, Westow Street, Upper Norwood, S.E.19, who is acting as Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

APRIL, 1921

FICTION Queer Beats and Magics, 1 vol.. Mrs. A. H. D. Acland

At the Sign of the Cat and Racket, 5 vols. H. de Balzac Island Mystery, 4 vols. "G. A. Birmingham Grannie's Wonderful Chair, 2 vols. Frances Browne Sky Pilot of No Man's Land, 5 vols " R. Connor " Stravings of Sandy, 5 vols, Dorothea Convers The Conscript, 6 vols. E. Erckmann & B. A. Chatrian Waterloo, 7 vols. ... E. Erckmann & B. A. Chatrian In Old Madras, 5 vols...... B. M. Croker Somehow Good, 11 vols. Wm. de Morgan Five Tales, 5 vols, J. Galsworthy Shilling Soldiers, 2 vols...... D. Garstin Tommy and the Maid of Athens, 3 vols J. Hocking The Naulahka, 4 vols R. Kipling & W. Balestier My Novel, 21 vols...... Lord Lytton Man and his Lesson, 5 vols. W. B. Maxwell The Gay Charmer, 5 vols... L. T. Meade Peterkin (Uncontracted Braille), 3 vols. Mrs. Molesworth Nest of Malignants, 2 vols................................... D. Moore Malincourt Keep, 3 vols...... Adeline Sergeant Lushington Mystery, 4 vols. Philippa Tyler Coelebs, 4 vols. F. E. Mills Young

MISCELLANEOUS Agamemnon (Trans. with notes by Prof. G. Murray)

(E. W. Austin Memorial Fund), Alice-sit-by-the-Fire, 2 vols.......Sir J. M. Barrie

Central Italian Painters of the Renaissance, 2 vols.

B. Berenson
(E. W. Austin Memorial Fund)
Florentine Painters of the Renaissance B. Berenson
(E. W. Austin Memorial Fund)
Venetian Painters of the Renaissance B. Berenson
(E. W. Austin Memorial Fund)
My Reminiscences, 5 volsLady Blun
Looking Forward, 1 vol
Livingstone—Hero of Africa, 3 volsR. B. Dawson
Catherine Gladstone, 4 vols Mary Drew
Friends and War (a new statement of the Quaker
question)
Fruit for Cottagers (R.H.S. Lectures)
Fr Come to Coine 5 wale

from "Earthly Paradise," 2 vols. William Morris
Poems New and Old, 2 vols
Letters that have helped me, 1 volJ. Niemand
History of England, 1485-1902, 10 volsC. Oman
*History of Everyday Things in England, 1500— 1799, 2 vols
Elementary Politics, 2 vols
*Sermons Preached at Brighton, 1847—52, 3 vols. Frederick W. Robertson
Wisdom of Life, 3 vols A. Schopenhauer
Analytic Psychology, 3 vols G. F. Stout
(E. W. Austin Memorial Fund)
Catherine de Medici and the French Reformation,
6 vols Edith Sichel

"Land East of the Sun and West of the Moon,"

*Essays in Romantic Literature, 4 vols.

George Wyndham

Handbook to League of Nations, 2 vols.

FOREIGN

Sir G. Butler

* Stereotyped Books.

The Supplementary Catalogue of Books added to the National Library for the Blind since 1919 is now complete, and can be procured, price 4d., post free.

The Supplementary Catalogue of Music will shortly be ready at the same price.

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TANDEM CYCLES FOR SALE

THE National Institute for the Blind has been fortunate enough to secure some new tandem cycles of exceptionally good quality and of the latest design. These cost £35 each, but the National Institute is able to sell them to blind people for £20 each, cash terms. A unique feature in these tandems is that the lady's saddle is placed in front, and not behind as in other tandems. Those who wish to avail themselves of this offer should communicate with the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, London, W. 1.

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AT Chartres, in France, the blind soldiers at the professional school which has been established there cultivate their own garden; it is now not only one of the most beautiful in the neighbourhood, but it has carried off the prize for the best vegetable plot in the Chartres military area.

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the May Numbers

Progress. — Editor's Note — The Sounds of the Atmosphere — The Great Queen — Exchanges and Everyday Life—The Old Man of China (Poem)— Three Blind Men—Garden Notes (May)—Our Prize Competitions—Matters of the Moment—Buttercups and Daisies—Welfare of the Blind—The Coal Exchange—Nightingales (Poem)—The Question Box—Chess—Our Home Page—Advertisements.

School Magazine.—Sequova, King of all Red Indians, from My Magazine—Icelandic Volcanoes—Concerning Eels—Biography in Brief: Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528)—At the Mercy of a Tiger—Sicily: Past and Present—Azotobacter—Queries—Between the Stars—British Mines 4,000 years old—Tale of a Mouse's Tail.

The Literary Journal.—Lord Bryce on "Democracy"
—The Red Cross, from "Tales of the R.I.C."—
"Duputy Banshees," and some other mysteries, by
Miss A. H. Singleton—George Santayana—Massage
Library—National Library for the Blind—Reviews
of Books.

Braille Musical Magazine.—Registration of Teachers—Early Musical Training—The National Institute for the Blind Edition—Our Tuners' Column—Music at the National Institute—Obituary—The New Royal Exchange Bells—Parry as Song-Writer, by H. C. Colles—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews; Inset: Piano, "Ettude No. 6" (In the form of a waltz) by Saint-Saèns.

Santa Lucia.—The Great Sudd in the Nile—Queer Tale of Life in the Dead Sea of America—National Library for the Blind—How Jacques kept his Bargam, by Edwin Markham—The Pawn's Count, chapters 26–27 (to be continued), by E. Phillips Oppenheim —Sea-diving for Fresh Water—The Prince's Secret, by James Hodson—A Beauty of the Bronze Age—The Peril of the X-Rays—Fir-Iree Sugar.

Comrades.—Finn and the Beautiful Fawn, 2, from the Ossianic Legends—A Narrow Escape, 3 (Grade I) (to be continued), from Second Oxford Reading Book —The Birth of a Butterfly, by H. Waddingham Seers—Well Played! from Third Oxford Reading Book—Puzzles—A Bright May Morning.

The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.—The Application of Suggestion in the Practice of Massage—The Annual Meeting—Correspondence—Official Notices.

The Hampstead.—Rajah to the Rescue, by C. N. and A. M. Williamson—National Library for the Blind—Who's Who—A Judge's Jokes—Tramps are going strong—Best Stories.

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Mantle of the East (continued)—Building the World's Navies—Exciting Work of the Ice Patrol—I iving to Eat—For Protection—Shivering keeps us Warm—The Life of Ships—Lace Tells.

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Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-nine of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has heen introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

HOOLE BANK, CHESTER. This beautiful residence standing in its own grounds twenty-three acres in extent, has recently been opened as a Guest House for educated and refined blind folk in normal health and reduced circumstances. It is proposed to receive a few paying guests for holidays at £9 2s, per week each. Full particulars from the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

The After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind would be glad to hear from people who could offer good homes in private families to blind-deaf persons of both sexes, at a nominal charge. Anyone who is able to offer this, should apply to:—
The Superintendent, "After-Care Department," National Institute for the Blind, 8 Carburton Street, Great Portland Street, W. 1.

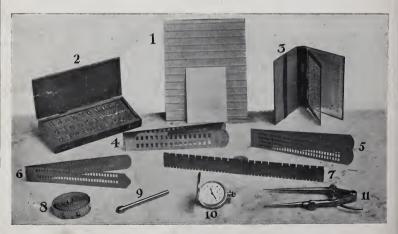
COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION
OF THE BLIND, WORCESTER.—Public School
education. Preparation for Universities and Professions. Modern side for Shorthand, Book-keeping,
Modern Languages, etc. Staff of University men
and specialists. Prospectus and List of Successes
from Head Master, G. C. Brown, M.A.

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



GAMES FOR THE BLIND.—Draughts, Russian Fives, Chess, Chess and Draughts Outfit, Cheery Families, Bridge and Whist Cards, Patience Cards.



APPARATUS FOR THE BLIND.—1 Correspondence Tablets; 2 Braillette Board; 3 Pocket Postcard Writing-Frame; 4 Two-lined Pocket-guide for Giant Dots; 5 Four-lined Pocket Frame: 6 Two-lined interlining Pocket Guide; 7 Brass Foot Rule; 8 Tape Measure; 9 Spur-wheel; 10 Braille Watch; 11 Compasses.



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

THE following publications are subject to a discount of seventy-five per cent. for readers who are resident in the British Isles, and to a discount of fifty per cent. for residents in the British Colonies and Dependencies.

MUSIC

CHURCH-

4948 4949	"Benedictus in E flat," by Woodward (Vertical Score) "Grant, we beseech Thee" (Anthem for Bass Solo and Choru	 s) by	 Robert		 tical S				0
4950	"American Battle Hymn" (Unison Song), by Shaw							2	
c	Drgan—								
4951	"Cantilene Pastorale in B minor," by Guilmant, Op. 15 (Bar l	oy Bar	•)					2	0
4952	"Military March in D," by Schubert, Op. 51 (arr. by Best) (Ba							2	0
4953	"Offertoire," by Thomas (Bar by Bar)							2	0
4954	"Romance to the Evening Star" (Wagner's "Tannhäuser"),	arr. by	y Lema	ire (Ba	r by E	Bar)		2	0
F	Piano—								
			1 m					_	ı,
4955	Nos. 11 and 12 of "Forty-eight Preludes and Fugues," Part I,					····	•••	2	5
4956	"Shepherd's Hey" (No. 4 of British Folk-Music Settings), arr							2	7
4957	"First Year at the Piano" (A Series of Easy Compositions), b	y Kow	rley (11	nird Te	rm) (E	sar by I	sar)	3	
4958	"Day Dreams" (Intermezzo), by Higgin (Bar by Bar			•••	•••	•••	•••	2	0
4959	"Six Easy Pieces," by Jephson (Bar by Bar						•••	2	1
4960	Incorporated Society of Musicians: "Six Pianoforte Pieces Preparatory Grade, Series I (Bar by Bar)		th a s					2	11
4961		 D	٠	•••		•••			
	Ditto, Graded Pieces, Grade II, Book 13, Intermediate (Bar b				•••			2	
4962	" Grade IV Book 3, Advanced (Bar by I					•••	•••	2	
4963	" Book 14, Advanced (Bar by						•••	2	
4964	" Grade V, Book 6, Higher Advanced (I	Bar by	Bar)	•••	•••		•••	2	1
7	VIOLIN AND PIANO-								
4965	"Caprice Viennois," by Kreisler, Op. 2 (Piano Part) (Bar by l	Bar)						2	0
5	ongs—								
4966	"Poor Peter" and "A Flow'ret Thou Resemblest," by Schun							2	5
4967	Three Songs from "Songs of the Norseland": "Love is an	Ocean	," " Ey	es that	used	to Gaz	e in		
	Mine," "Time was I roved the Mountains," by Löhr (Medi					F' sha	arp)		1
4968	"Whene'er a Snowflake Leaves the Sky," by Lehmann (E fla			E to F	~)			2	0
4969	"Sons of the Sea," by Coleridge-Taylor (F minor: Compass, C)				•••	2	0
4970	"I'll Rock You to Rest," by Stanford (E flat: Compass, B, to	\mathbf{E}')						2	0
4971	"Sleep, Dear Heart," by Logan (D: Compass, B, to E')					•••	•••	2	0
4972	"Sheep and Lambs," by James (C: Compass, C to E' flat)							2	0
4973	"Long Ago in Alcala," by Messager (F: Compass, B, to C')					•••	•••	2	0
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4974	"Excelsior," by Balfe (Key C)							2	
4975	"The Garden of Sleep" (Soprano and Contralto), by de Lara			•••				2	0
27.3	and contract of steep (soprano and contracto), by de Lata								

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. V.—No. 55.

JULY.. 1921.

PRICE 3D. 3s. PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

THE AFTER-CARE OF THE CIVILIAN BLIND



 Γ is eminently satisfactory to reflect upon the fact that a good deal more is now being heard of the "After-Care" of civilian blind persons than was the case a few years ago.

By this we do not mean to imply that machinery is being rapidly set up to deal comprehensively with the problems which may be said to be included in the

"After-Care." All too slowly this machinery is being created; but at least we may derive some satisfaction from the fact that institutions, societies and agencies for the blind are fully recognising the importance of the work, and with the limited means at their disposal are on the eve of attempting to do things.

It is very essential that a beginning should be made upon the right lines, otherwise time and money will be wasted and lives ruined in the process of gaining experience and reconstructing ideas and methods of operation.

We think few people will be found who will be disposed to deny credit to the National Institute for the Blind for the splendid results that have been achieved in this sphere of activity. Taking the last five years as illustrative of the work that has been done, it is found possible to present a record which probably cannot be equalled by any voluntary institution for the blind either in Europe or America.

Under the Blind Persons Act. 1920, we are likely to have evolved a very large number of schemes propounded by local authorities and voluntary organisations-all designed to deal comprehensively with this subject. It will be well, therefore, if the Ministry of Health, to whom in the first place these schemes are to be submitted. will see to it that they are so co-ordinated as to achieve such a unity of purpose and idea as will enable the proposals to dovetail into each other, and thereby suggest the means for achieving a scientific treatment of a subject concerning which the politicians in the blind world are necessarily evincing much anxiety.

The question of Relief is not satisfactorily dealt with under the Blind Persons' Act. because in these days merely to give a destitute person a sum of ten shillings per week and expect him to subsist upon this paltry pittance is, to put it mildly, tinkering with a grave social problem. The judicious help of local authorities must speedily be available, and allowances adequate in amount provided for those whose physical and mental condition is such as to render their earning power negligible.

In like manner, ways and means must be discovered by which persons employed in their own homes can be assured of something more than the payment of sweated wages for such services as they are able to render. The continuity of their employment must be in some way guaranteed, otherwise there never can be any real approach to standardisation in production, and without such standardisation, however it is to be attained, the goods are never likely to command a ready sale, and must continue to be a drug on the market and a source of eternal anxiety to those responsible for the organisation of the schemes under which

they are produced.

The question of augmentation of earnings for the Home Worker is equally problematical, and before anything like contentment can prevail arrangements will have to be made under which the Home Worker will receive at least the same amount in augmentation of his earnings as that which is being paid to the workshop employé. This, however, will only be made possible when the various workshop authorities come to some common agreement as to the extent to which wages should be subsidised. At present there are scarcely two organisations whose arrangements in this respect are comparable, and this very fact is a prolific source of dissatisfaction, for an unwholesome form of competition is thus set up between the authorities, while the blind workers are subjected to a series of graduated scales of payment which make all manner of invidious

We are aware that some of the older institutions have professed to do something in the direction of providing systems of "After-Care" for their graduates, but a painstaking investigation leads us to the reflection that all of such systems leave much to be desired, and we are therefore hopeful that the schemes which are now being propounded will prove infinitely more comprehensive, and will contain those elements of permanence which will make for a more stabilised condition of life for the whole of the people of whom they are designed to take cognisance.

When it is remembered that in the past the whole of the money necessary for dealing with the claims of the blind has had to be raised by voluntary means, it is very remarkable to note that so much has been accomplished. With additional help from the State and the Municipalities we have a right to expect that giant strides will be made in the immediate future.

One may reasonably doubt the wisdom of the policy of decentralisation that is being now pursued, but experience alone will enable us to ascertain how far the present policy can

legitimately be followed.

In the meantime it will interest our readers to see what one institution has been able to accomplish during the past five years, and if during a like succeeding period any of the great institutions for the blind of the country can eclipse such a record we shall be most happy to congratulate them.

The National Institute for the Blind distributed in the form of relief, training fees and allocations to institutions from 1916 to 1920 inclusive, the sum of £249,700 5s. 5d.,

made up as follows:-

		£	S.	d.
1916	 	23,560	3	5
1917	 	28,879	5	4
1918	 	35,700	1	3
1919	 	91,830	2	8
1920	 	69,730	12	9

This is surely a result which entitles the Council of the National Institute for the Blind to feel proud of its record of work done, and there are large numbers of blind men and women in the country who can give abundant testimony as to the usefulness of the Institute's system of After-Care, which has been continued through years of unprecedented national difficulty.

If additional details were necessary to further amplify the contentions made in this article, a reference to the work accomplished in 1920 would surely establish such claims.

During the period named the number of new cases dealt with was 1,037, thus placing on the register, inclusive of the total recorded up to 1919, 6,004 blind persons. During 1920 also a sum of £11,34216s.10d. was distributed in relief to necessitous cases. Gifts to the value of £646 15s. 11d. were provided, and dental and surgical requisites supplied to thirty-seven people. Much useful work was accomplished by supplying glasses to approved cases, and providing prompt medical attention which frequently resulted in the saving of eyesight.

One hundred and forty-three persons are undergoing training in industrial and professional occupations, and fees have been paid to approved institutions for the blind amounting to £4,361 15s. 11d. Other grants and allocations to institutions for the blind amounted to £54,026.

The number of visits paid during the year to blind persons in their own homes was 923, these visits being quite independent of the work undertaken in a similar direction by the Home Teaching Society.

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IT is more to know how to use the victory than to overcome.

THE NEW KEY TO BRAILLE MUSIC NOTATION



ANY inquiries have been received with reference to the publication of a book which should deal exhaustively with the new method of stereotyping Braille Music as used in the music publications of the National Institute for the Blind and of the Royal School for the Blind, Edinburgh. We now have pleasure in stating that the concluding section of a book on this

subject was read and approved by the Braille Music Notation Committee on June 16th. Every effort has been made by the committee to make the New Key as complete as possible. Before giving any account of its distinctive features it may prove of interest to trace the steps which have led to the preparation of this book.

As far back as 1909, at the invitation of the late Sir Francis Campbell, a number of blind musicians met to discuss the pressing need for an improvement in the method of presenting music to the finger. The chief point to note about this meeting was that Mr. Stainsby was present and on behalf of his Council offered to provide facilities for giving practical effect to the recommendations made. The next definite step forward was taken at the Conference on the Blind, held at Exeter in 1911, when a committee was formed to deal with the subject of Braille Music Revision, the matter being discussed at length in the pages of the Braille Musical Magazine. In 1913 the suggestions for revision were summarised, and this summary formed an excellent basis for the deliberations of the Braille Music Notation Committee. which is under the Chairmanship of Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., Director of Music at the National Institute for the Blind. In view of the importance of the changes proposed, it was desirable to move slowly, in order that the new methods and new signs should be carefully tested. It was not, therefore, till the end of 1917 that a pamphlet "Additions

to Braille Music Notation," setting forth the new methods, was published. After a further period of testing it became necessary to embody these methods in a book which should deal with the whole system of Braille Music Notation. The preparation of the text of such a book was undertaken by Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., Music Librarian of the National Library for the Blind, Westminster. It should be understood that the old method of writing several bars for the right hand, followed by a corresponding number for the left hand, has given place to the practice of writing only a bar for each hand alternately. This plan, known as the Bar by Bar method, is varied, in simple music, by writing all the parts together, straight up from the bass; the name assigned to this style of writing is Vertical Score. In the old plan of writing a number of bars for each hand the part for the right hand was always written downward, thus giving emphasis to the melodic aspect; but in Bar by Bar and Vertical Score the parts are always written upwards in both hands, thus laying stress, in full agreement with modern modes of musical thought, upon the harmonic aspect. The change, though apparently simple, is much more far-reaching than it appears.

The new key not only deals exhaustively with the features of Braille music already familiar to the readers of the old system, together with a well-illustrated account of the methods here briefly touched upon, but it also treats of the following important points, inadequately dealt with in previously issued textbooks on Braille Music Notation:—

The setting out of the words and music in songs; Musical Ornaments (including those used by Bach and his contemporaries); Violin and 'Cello music (including some important new signs); Plainsong; Figured Bass, as required in examination papers; Tonic Sol-Fa; and the setting out of a full orchestral score. The last-named has received but little

attention in the past. The subject is complicated, and it is not to be supposed that the plan may not need further improvement, but there is little doubt that the suggestions made for concise presentation in Braille of a full score are a very long way in advance of anything that has been previously attempted. The new key will be amply provided with musical examples, of which the greater number will be taken from the work of well-known composers.

Our readers may be glad to know that the publication of "The New Key to Braille Music Notation" has now been arranged, and the issue of the book will be announced

in due course.

A pamphlet describing the Tonic Sol-Fa notation as applied to Braille has been prepared by Mr. H. E. Platt.

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WE learn from the News Letter published by the National Community Prevention of Blindness in New York that a moving picture film entitled "Saving the Eyes of Youth " has recently been prepared by the Worcester Film Corporation. The picture portrays a baby born in squalid surroundings; it shows the lowly tenement, the mother and her new-born child, the discovery that something is wrong with the baby's eyes, the gathering of the neighbours with their well-meant but worse than useless advice, the little sister who has been an attentive listener to health talks at school, the arrival of the district nurse, the hurried trip to the hospital, the sorrowing mother waiting in the hospital corridors for the word that shall mean all to her loved child, and the kindly doctors and nurses who return the child with eyes that see to his rejoicing mother.

If the experience of this mother and her child as told by the film shall save the sight of even a few of those who might otherwise spend their lives in darkness, its work will

be well done.

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Dr. Morell B. Beals, examining oculist of the New York City school system, makes the following statement:

"Out of 100,000 pupils in the New York public schools who fail to be promoted each year, 50,000 have defective eyesight; at least 55,000 are left back not because they lack brains, but because they lack spectacles."

REVISED BRAILLE POSTAGE RATES

ON the 13th June a revised and reduced rate of postage for packets containing embossed literature for the blind sent from place to place in the United Kingdom came into force. The new rates are as follows:

For packets not exceeding 1 lb. in weight, †d.

For packets exceeding 1 lb. but not exceeding 5 lbs., 1d.

For packets exceeding 5 lbs. but not exceeding $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., 2d.

The regulation as to what is signified by the expression "embossed literature for the blind "has also been revised. Literature for the blind, to which the above new rates refer. should consist only of articles specially impressed for the use of the blind, and may not contain any communication, either in written, printed or ordinary type, except the title, table of contents, date of publication, serial number, names and addresses of printer and publisher, and price of the book or periodical, and any key to or instructions for the use of the special type. It may not contain any enclosure except a label for the return of the packet. This regulation must be strictly adhered to by those who wish to transmit through the post embossed literature at the above specified reduced rates.

We should like to lay special emphasis (1) on the fact that nothing, i.e., no letter or written communication, postal order, etc., may be included in the packet, except a label for its return. (2) That no remarks or communication may be written in handwriting or typewriting on the embossed literature dispatched.

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The revised postage on "blind literature" from this country to places abroad from June 13th, is $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. up to $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., with a maximum of 3d.

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THERE is no study that is not capable of delighting us after a little application to it.

Pope.

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FROM labour health; from health contentment springs.

Beattie.



T the Printers' Exhibition recently held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, great interest was evinced in a picture-book for the blind, which is the production of the Design Department of the National Institute for the Blind. This book consists of a series of

pictures formed by means of dotted lines, each subject being accompanied by a concise explanation printed in ordinary

letterpress.

The collection of illustrations is taken for the most part at random from various illustrated books published by the Institute, in order that sighted people mav know what books for the blind are like, and how necessary it is that every book should be fully explained if it is to be at all intelligible to sightless folk. Such pictures can naturally offer little idea of tone and delicate detail, but to the sensitive fingers of the blind much can be conveyed in the out-

lines, especially if accompanied by careful

explanation.

The architectural drawings which form the first subjects give an excellent idea of the architectural features of some of the world's most famous buildings, whilst a good idea of proportion is afforded by the juxtaposition of smaller objects, such as a human figure and a taxi in the station yard at Charing Cross, and a gondola on the canal spanned by the Rialto Bridge. Excellent outlines have

been obtained of the leaning tower of Pisa, an oasis in the desert, showing palm trees, the Great Wall of China, a lion, a charging bison, the details of a Norman arch and a Gothic window. These are supplemented by various diagrams, such as the section of a heart, the anatomy of a butterfly, a spider's web, an electric bell—

web, an electric bell—all of which are of great value for instructional purposes.

One of the most instructive of these finger pictures is that which represents a balloon as seen at a distance and gradually receding from view. On passing her fingers over this picture a blind girl was heard to exclaim, "I didn't know that objects appear to grow smaller when they recede," a remark which we think amply testifies to the practical value of the contents of this picturebook for the blind.

A word as to the production of the pictures: — First a drawing is prepared on tracing cloth. This must be designed with infinite care; it must contain as few lines as possible,

as rew lines as possible, and each line must have its meaning; no detail must be inserted which would prove too small to be felt clearly by the finger. The plate upon which the design is embossed for printing is a folded sheet of thin zinc. This is laid down on a flat bed of pitch, the surface of which has been softened by means of a gas flame; a roller is passed over it until it becomes level and firmly attached to the pitch. When this is cool and hard, the drawing is pasted face downwards on to the



Photo] [Daily Mirror Embossed Picture of Balloons

level surface of the plate, and the embossing is done by means of a light hammer and steel punches of various sizes. As the plate of metal is doubled, the impression of each dot is received on both sheets at the same time, forming a die and counter-die. In printing, a sheet of paper is simply inserted between the two leaves of metal, and pressure is applied.

In conclusion, in order to give our readers some idea of the value of the explanations in letterpress which accompany the designs, we append the description of the picture reproduced on the preceding page:—

THE BALLOONS: A FINGER PICTURE.

Imagine the rectangular border represents an open window. The smooth margin of the paper outside the border you must think of as being part of the wall, but inside the border all the smooth paper represents open space.

Suppose yourself standing at this window while some balloons are drifting by overhead in the clear, unclouded sky. Stretch out your arm through the window as far as you can reach, and move it about in every direction. You would feel nothing. But if you could stretch your arm until it was five or six hundred yards long, you would be able to touch the nearest balloon, the great gas-bag of which is marked at B.

This is a huge hollow ball of silk enclosed in a network of fine ropes, the ends of which converge below and are attached to a ring shown at R. Below this is suspended the basket or car, C. The short dash above the upper rim of the car indicates the head and shoulders of the aeronaut and gives an idea of the size of a man compared with the bulk of the balloon. A long rope, known as a trail rope, is often seen hanging from the car. This is marked T.

To the left, and half a mile or more away from you, a second balloon is shown at D. It is really the same size as the first, but being much further away it has the appearance of being smaller and fainter.

Above this, at F, is a balloon supposed to be a very long way off, and drifting slowly away from you. If you move your finger to the right you will feel how it gradually becomes smaller and fainter as it drifts further away, until at last it quite disappears from the touch in the same way that it disappears from sight. At a moderate rate of speed it would probably take ten minutes to move from F to the point where it can no longer be seen.

NATIONAL HEALTH AND VOLUNTARY INSURANCES

THE report of the Secretary of the Armitage Lodge of the Church Benefit Society—a Society which accepts blind persons for all Insurances—is to hand. The membership of the Lodge during the last three years has increased from approximately 200 to 600 members, and it is a compliment to the healthy condition of sightless operatives that the record of the Armitage Lodge is stated to be the third out of 1,000 in the matter of efficiency.

In the interest of the Society, and for the benefit of blind employers, the Secretary, Mr. Emblen, has created the Hatherton (Walsall) Lodge, which now has a substantial membership, and another new Lodge is in course of formation in Leeds. In recognition of these services Mr. Emblen was elected on the Executive Council at the last Annual General Meeting.

Owing to the prejudice which exists against the acceptance of blind persons by many of the big Insurance Societies, principals of institutions for the blind would be well advised to notify their employés of the advantages to be gained by the National Health Insurance Acts and the facilities which the Society offers for extended benefits under the Voluntary Section. All application forms for membership, and other particulars, may be had from the following: -Mr. J. R. Emblen, Secretary, Armitage Lodge, C.B.S., National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.1; and Miss C. Clubb, Secretary, Hatherton Lodge, C.B.S., Institute for the Blind, 139a Lichfield Street, Walsall.

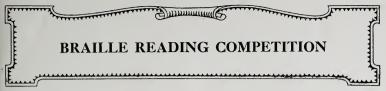
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By an arrangement between Layton Bros. and the Canadian Marconi Company, wireless amateurs throughout Eastern Canada were recently able to enjoy a musical treat. One of Messrs. Layton Bros. player pianos was played directly into a wireless telephone at the Marconi Company's regular weekly concert, the music being radiated into space in a 1,200-metre aether wave. The programme included classical and popular pieces.

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BE like the promontory against which the waves continually break; but it stands firm, and tames the fury of the water around it.

Marcus Aurelius.





N Saturday, May 28th, thirty-eight blind people visited the National Library for the Blind, Tufton Street, Westminster, in order to take part in the reading competition. This competition, it will be remembered, was initiated last year by Mr. Walter H. Dixson, of Oxford, in memory of Miss Austin, and was a great success. There was no falling off in interest this

year and the competitors all showed great keenness.

The passages from literature selected for reading in Braille type in the preliminary test were one from Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd" and a poem from "Songs of a Sourdough," by Robert Service. The competitors entered in two classes, A and B; some of them were reclassified after the preliminary tests, and finally six were selected in A Class and six in B Class for the finals.

The passages selected for the finals were: Class A: "Shakespeare's Workmanship," by Quiller Couch, and a very difficult poem, "Reynard, the Fox," by Masefield, in Class B: another passage from Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd," and the "Hunting of the Snark," by Lewis Carroll.

Professor Gilbert Murray, the famous Greek scholar, and Miss Rosina Fillippi, widely known as an elocutionist, most kindly consented to be judges and allotted the prizes as follows:—

Class A. First prize of three guineas to Miss K. M. Green, shorthand-typist at the National Institute for the Blind. Second prize of two guineas, Mr. W. J. Sharp, N.I.B. Home Teacher. Third prize, 5s. Miss R. Last, copyist for the National Library for the Blind.

Class B. First prize of two guineas, Mr. A. G. Chapple, Braille proof-reader at the National Institute for the Blind. Second prize one guinea Mr. Nattrass, of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society. Third prize of 5s. Miss K. Cole, knitting machinist at the London

Association for the Blind. The prizes were presented by Viscount Grey of Falloden, who was specially interested in the competition, as he himself has recently had much trouble with his eyesight and has taken up the study of Braille. In the course of a delightful speech he expressed his appreciation of the extraordinary proficiency shown by the competitors and recommended Braille as a hobby even to those possessed with sight. It was so comfortable, he remarked, to read in bed, especially during the cold weather when the Braille book could be kept under the bedclothes, and again how convenient it was to doze off into a sleep and wake, if untroubled with indigestion, with the finger on the exact spot where you left off!

Miss Rosina Fillippi pointed out in a charming little speech how blind people when reading Braille brought out in a manner far more than sighted people the value and richness of words, and she laid stress on the remarkable syllabic pronunciation of blind readers.

She also noticed that whereas a sighted reader when reading aloud passes hurriedly over some mistake which he may have made, the blind reader refuses to slur an error and goes back to correct a mistake.

Professor Gilbert Murray, who was one of the judges in last year's competition, stated that he could only repeat the conclusion at which he had previously arrived, that the competition was to him a proof of an immense store of spiritual courage and initiative which is inherent in everybody if they only knew. In this way blindness may even be a blessing in disguise, inasmuch as it brings out a latent force in the character which bears evidence to the indomitable heroism which frequently lies hidden in many an ordinary person's soul.

We may add that the arrangements for the competition made by the authorities of the National Library for the Blind were most ably carried out, and that the competition was a great success in every way.





E learn that a well-known worker for the blind in Scotland has retired from active duty, in the person of Mr. Charles W. Ness, who until recently acted as superintendent of the Edinburgh and South-East of Scotland Society for Teaching the Blind to Read at their Own Homes.

Mr. Ness first became connected

with the work in the year 1878, under Mr. John Brown, who was the first Scottish Missionary to the Blind, and started work in their midst in 1857, when the Edinburgh Society was instituted. The work gradually increased, and, it being considered that what was good for Edinburgh was good for the whole of Scotland, the Edinburgh Society sent Mr. Brown all over the country in order to initiate similar work. At the present time there are ten home-teaching societies in Scotland. When Mr. Ness joined the staff it was the day of small things, both as regards income, expenditure, the number of blind people on the roll, and the number of books in embossed type at their disposal. Apart from Scripture only a very small number of books in the Moon type was embossed. This proved a great hardship to the blind, whose reading was of necessity much restricted. Mr. Ness was successful in inducing his society to introduce the Braille system into the library, thereby opening up to readers a wider field of literature. On looking over the old reports we find that in 1878 the library contained about 1,000 volumes in Moon type. In 1920 it contained 2,030 volumes in that type, and approximately 2,000 in Braille, exclusive of magazines, copies of which are obtainable. The circulation during 1920 amounted to 6,290 volumes. When it is remembered that each volume is handled twice, when sent out and when returned, it will be readily understood that the staff is kept busy supplying the wants of its readers.

In 1882 the Scottish Out-door Blind

Teachers' Union was formed, and its annual conference did much to consolidate the work of the ten societies. Shortly after its inception Mr. Ness was appointed Secretary of the Union, and continued in this position till 1917, when the Union was replaced by the Scottish National Federation of Societies and Institutions. Mr. Ness remained on the Executive Committee of the Federation till 1920, when he retired.

In 1886 the Roxburgh, Berwick and Selkirkshire Society was merged into the Edinburgh Society, adding about fifty to the roll, and making a total of about 250. At the end of 1920 the total was 443. Mr. Ness was the originator of the Society's Holiday Home for the Blind, which was inaugurated in 1908. At the present day the Society owns a cottage with accommodation for six blind persons at Kirkliston, eight miles from Edinburgh. During the summer months a fortnight's holiday is provided for sixty people.

In 1905 a sum of money was left to the Society by a lady, and a Pension Fund was started. The Jamieson Pension Fund now keeps eighty-four pensioners supplied with

the sum of £10 per annum.

It was in 1898, exactly twenty years after his first connection with the work, that Mr. Ness succeeded Mr. John Brown as superintendent. Well-known all over Scotland for his activities on behalf of the blind, Mr. Ness was until recently a member of the Newington House Committee, and last year he, together with the other members of the committee, had the honour of being presented to the King, on the occasion of His Majesty's visit to the Hostel.

Mr. Ness is now 72 years of age, but he is still remarkably active and carries his years well. One of his favourite sayings is "A man is never any older than he feels." He is a keen golfer and is steadily improving in play. He still does visiting work amongst the blind connected with the Society. On his retirement the blind people of Edinburgh

subscribed in order to present him with a pocket-book containing some Treasury notes. Mr. Ness carries with him the best wishes of all who know him, and will long be revered and remembered for his "spade work" in the cause of the blind.

He is succeeded by his son, Mr. William W. Ness, who took up his duties on April 1st. 1920. The staff of the Society has since been considerably increased. The visiting and teaching are attended to by two sighted teachers and one partially sighted and one blind instructor, whilst three collectors and assistants are employed to gather in the sinews of war, and Mr. William Ness acts as superintendent. The spirit of the Society has always been definitely evangelical, but the social side of the work is by no means overlooked. During the past winter the new superintendent organised a series of most successful concerts in the Eve Wards of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. A distribution of money in lieu of cheap coals also took place.

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THERE is no great achievement that is not the result of patient working and waiting. T. Titcomb.

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THE secret of happiness is never to let your energies stagnate. The key to pleasure is honest work.

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WORLD'S BLIND POPULATION

R. HARRY BEST estimates that the blind population of the world is at least 2,390,000, exclusive of those blinded in the Great War, 1914-18, and gives the following ratios per million of the population as far as ascertainable: Canada 449, Mexico 782, Argentina 892, Chile 800, Austria 694, Belgium 435, Denmark 527, France 706, Germany 609, Hungary 895, Italy, 1,175, Netherlands 463, Norway 926, Russia (European) 2,016, Sweden 664, Switzerland 722, India 1,416, Egypt, 13,251, Australia 705, New Zealand 478.*

The blind population of England and Wales as given by the Ministry of Health, July, 1920, was 30,708.

A FAREWELL DINNER

LORD SHAW OF DUNFERMLINE presided on June 23rd at an interesting function in honour of Mr. Henry J. Wilson, who for many years has devoted himself to the cause of the welfare of the blind. He has been secretary of the Gardners' Trust for the Blind for nearly forty years. In view of his relinquishing next September all official connection with the work in which he has devoted the best part of his life, he was entertained at a dinner held at the Holborn Restaurant, where expressions of gratitude for his great services were tendered to him, together with a cheque for £330 and an autograph album of the subscribers.

Letters of apology for inability to attend were read from many friends in all parts of the country. Sir Arthur Pearson wrote:—

o" I met Mr. Wilson in the earliest days of my loss of sight, and learned then to appreciate to the full the splendid devotion he has for so many years shown in the cause of the blind. His retirement from active participation in matters which concerned the welfare of people who cannot see will mean a great loss to them, as it will, I know, mean a great grief to him. But I assure Mr. Wilson that he may always feel that the gratitude of those whom he has so long befriended and worked for will follow him into his well-deserved retirement, and will have their best wishes for good health and happiness."

In proposing the health of "Our Guest." the Chairman said that it must have been a very special providence which sent Mr. Wilson to the Gardner's Trust as their secretary. Having made mention of the various committees and Boards of Management of which Mr. Wilson had been either chairman or a member, the speaker went on to say that Mr. Wilson had a singular satisfaction in life of seeing the seed he had sown ripen in the time of his own career. The Government had acknowledged his services through the mouth of Dr. Addison. Owing to Mr. Wilson's efforts the Government Bill for the Welfare of the Blind was put upon the Statute Book last year.

In the course of his reply, Mr. Wilson said that what he had done for the blind was due to the sympathetic and loyal support he had received from so many friends. He said that he felt the time had come when he should leave the work to younger and stronger men.

Daily Telegraph.

^{*} The Blind, Their Condition and the Work being done for them in the United States, by Harry Best, Ph.D., published 1919, by the Macmillan Company, New York.



THE total sum paid to the blind workers at the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind during the year was £6,498, as compared with £5,204 last year—an increase of £1,294.

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BELIEVED to be the first in the country, a sick benefit society has been started for the blind in Monmouthshire. It is open to all the blind in the country over sixteen years of age.

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THE Sheffield Institution for the Blind has been granted permission to use the prefix "Royal" in the name of the institution, which will henceforth be known as the "Royal Sheffield Institution for the Blind."



THE Home Teaching Society for the Blind in the Torquay and Totnes Divisions has decided to co-operate with the Blind Persons' Club in order to prevent overlapping. During the past year over a thousand visits were paid and 189 lessons given, and more than 300 books were distributed among the blind.



THE Brighton Town Council has just adopted a scheme for the exercise of the powers conferred on the council under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and has voted a grant of £100 to the local Blind Relief and Visiting Society. The object of the scheme is to keep in touch with babies born blind or with defective sight, and in the case where the home is unsuitable and where the infant shows signs of not developing there is provision for the infant being sent to the Blind Babies Home of the National Institute for the Blind. Provision is also made for children of school age, for the teaching of basketmaking, chair-caning, etc. after school days and for the marketing of goods.

A YEAR ago there were 420 blind persons on the register of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind. Of these 142 were engaged in the several industries carried on at the institution and its branch workshops and homes.

The sales amounted to £31,003 17s., and the wages and allowances paid to the employés was £7,549 3s. 7d. Of this £2,294 11s. 3d. represented the sum paid in excess of trade union rates by way of "compensation for blindness."



AT the Annual Meeting of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind it was stated that the number of workers employed at the Institute during the year was 86, of whom 24 were women and 42 men. The sales amounted to £11,557. Machine-made hosiery and handloom weaving for women had been started during the year. It was stated that when the extensions to the workshops attached to the Institute had been completed the Council would be in a position to employ an additional 30 blind persons.

THE Aberdeen Town and County Association for Teaching the Blind at their own Homes have on their register the names of 359 blind persons. The work of the Association covers the areas of Aberdeen City, Aberdeen-

shire, Banffshire, Kincardineshire, Orkney and Shetland. With the aid of grants from the Board of Health, several teachers have been engaged in different localities.



SHOPPERS in search of tweeds, hopsacks, serges, plain or striped linens, jumpers, silk stockings or house linen should visit 91 Crawford Street, Baker Street, and inspect the stuffs woven and articles made by blind women for the Barclay Workshop. The society has 120 blind women and girls at its workshops and schools in London and Brighton.

MISS M. A. GILBERT'S RETIREMENT

I T is with very great regret that we have to announce the resignation of Miss M. Ainsworth Gilbert of her post of Secretary of the Home Teaching Society Branch of the National Institute for the Blind, on account of home ties.

Miss Gilbert's retirement took effect at Midsummer. She has filled the position of Secretary to the Home Teaching Society for nine years, having joined the staff as Assistant Secretary two years previously. During this long period she has rendered excellent service to the work, in which she took a very keen personal interest. During her term of office the Home Teaching Society has made great progress, and it now forms a valuable and highly organised department of the Institute. By far the largest society of its kind in the whole country, the Home Teaching Society employs 48 blind teachers and one sighted teacher, who visit and assist the blind in a variety of ways in their own homes. Of these instructors 40 are working throughout the London and Adjacent Counties area, and 8 in far distant counties. The gratifying progress made by this society can be gauged from the fact that when Miss Gilbert took office the number of teachers employed was only 16.

Last year's records show that a total of 74,075 visits were paid to 5,797 blind folk, whilst 53,646 books and magazines, mostly belonging to the National Library for the Blind, were distributed among blind readers by the visiting teachers. In addition to the loan of this embossed literature, the Society has paid the National Library for the Blind for the postage of the books loaned to 560 individuals and centres of distribution.

In many instances all that can be done by the teachers is to visit, read to, and generally cheer the lives of individuals who are handicapped by blindness as well as poverty. But it should be noted that a very considerable amount of really practical work has also been accomplished in the way of occupational training. During the year 489 pupils were taught to read Braille and Moon, whilst 11 pupils mastered the subject of Braille Music Notation. Others again, have learnt chair caning, modelling, knitting, typewriting,

boot-repairing, mat-making, netting, basketmaking and rush-plaiting. There is also a considerable number of pupils studying these and kindred occupations.

The efforts of the teachers to improve the material condition of those whom they visit are unceasing. They have obtained orders for piano tuning, knitting, chair caning, baskets, boot repairing, and so forth, and have secured for their charges gifts of clothing, boots, coal, coke, groceries, Christmas parcels. and also letters by which surgical aid and hospital treatment-general, ophthalmic and dental-can be procured. In various districts entertainments have been organised. By means of close co-operation with the After-Care work of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties' Association and that of the National Institute for the Blind, many cases of approved necessity have been enabled to secure temporary relief, pensions, education, industrial training in institutions, and residence in homes and hostels. Much time has been devoted to securing the Old Age Pension under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and many deaf-blind have been visited, taught and read to by means of the manual system.

The National Institute for the Blind contributed the sum of £6,242 towards the maintenance of the Home Teaching Society during the past year.

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A RUSSIAN FABLE

ONE blind from birth asked a man who could see, "What colour is milk?"

The man who could see replied, "The colour of milk is like white paper."

The blind man asked, "This colour, then, rustles in the hands like paper?"

The man who could see replied, "No; it is white, like white flour."

The blind man asked, "Then it is soft and friable, like flour, is it?"

The man who could see replied, "No, it is simply white, like a rabbit."

The blind man asked, "Then it is downy and soft, like a rabbit, is it?"

The man who could see replied, "No, white is a colour exactly like snow."

The blind man asked, "Then it is cold, like snow, is it?"

And, in spite of the comparisons which the man who could see made, still the blind man was wholly unable to comprehend what the colour of milk really was.

Tolstoï.





HE famous religious leader, named Ziska von Trocnow, but more commonly alluded to as Ziska, was a follower of the great reformer, John Huss, and was born in Bohemia about the year 1360, some twenty years before the death of Wycliffe. In early youth he become a page in the household of the Emperor Wenceslaus, but becoming satiated with court life and its multi-

plicity of light frivolities, he decided to adopt a military career and also to defend his country against the encroachment of papal tyranny. First he joined the ranks of the English army, and we next hear of him as being engaged in deadly conflict with the Teutonic Knights. This celebrated religious and military order was founded during the Crusades, at the siege of Acre, by Duke Frederic of Swabia, with the sanction of Pope Clement III and the Emperor Henry VI. After the overthrow of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the knights removed from Acre to Venice, and thence to Marienburg, on the banks of the Vistula. During the thirteenth century they attempted, at the point of the sword, to force Christianity on the heathen who dwelt on the southern shores of the Baltic. Becoming more and more powerful, they acquired territory which extended from the Oder to the Baltic and embraced a population of between two and three millions. It may readily be imagined that such formidable neighbours were viewed with anything but favour by the surrounding princes. It was natural that Ziska should find his way to such a field of action, for his dislike to the numerous evils which had crept into the religious orders was as great as his desire to measure swords with such renowed warriors as the Knights of St. Mary. His bold spirit found ample scope for exercise in the numerous engagements which took place against this active foe, and at the fierce battle of Tannenberg it was Ziska's prompt action which won the day. The Teutonic Knights fled before his onslaughts,

and the Grand Master of the Order, together with 40,000 of his bravest followers, was left dead on the field of battle, whilst Ziska himself lost his right eye. In spite of his partial blindness, Ziska joined the Austrian army against the Turks, and afterwards rejoined the English, in whose ranks he fought at the battle of Agincourt and elsewhere.

In July, 1419, Ziska headed a popular movement in Prague against the Papal domination. With a strong contingent of men, all animated by religious enthusiasm for the memory of their great leader, John Huss, and with indignation against Sigismund's claim to the throne, Ziska marched on Pilsen. which he captured. There followed a rapid succession of victories; the whole of Southwest Bohemia was soon in the hands of the Reformers, and in 1421 Sigismund was driven from Bohemia. One day, while Ziska was inspecting the progress of some siege works. an arrow struck his left eye, and he was thus reduced to total blindness. He was taken by his soldiers to Prague, in order to undergo an operation, but so rude was the surgery of the time that his eveball was torn out in the attempt to extract the arrow. Fever supervened, and for a time his life was in danger. At length, however, his iron constitution triumphed, and, old and blind, he determined to return to the field of battle. In 1422 a second campaign took place; a German army was sent against the Hussites and was put to flight at Saaz, and in the same year the Emperor Sigismund was routed at Kuttenberg, Ziska being again left master of Bohemia. He now devoted his days to carrying out the precepts of his great leader, Huss. One by one the various emblems of Catholicism were swept away, and doubtless this was often effected with but little discrimination and in a more or less ruthless fashion. Further attacks and disturbances occurred. and once more Ziska and his followers rose up in opposition. Whilst taking part in a fresh campaign Ziska fell a victim to an attack of plague and he died on October 12th, 1424.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor, THE BEACON.

SIR,—The article on "the Expression of the Blind," has been read to me from the current number of *The Beacon*, and I am bound to say that although I am not able to deal deeply with the subject, it is one that has, during my seafaring days, given rise to many talks and discussions. Sea-going officers generally, are aware of the peculiar look that comes over the face during a dense fog. Most of us think that this fixed look is brought on because the harmonious working

of all our senses is suspended. through the fact that our eyes cannot see, and that therefore a necessary part of ordinary intelligence is missing. When I lost my own sight, an incident which did not involve facial disfigurement, I was told that I looked as I had looked when on the bridge in a fog. Perhaps there is something in



the Blind" (See page 5).

Photo] [Daily Mirror A CHARGING BISON. One of the illustrations in "A Picture-Book for

this.—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR DAVIS

WE have received the following letter from Mr. Walter H. Dixson, concerning the Reading Competition for the Blind of which he was the originator. (A description of this year's proceedings in connection with the competition, together with a list of prizewinners, will be found on page 7 of this issue):—

To the Editor, THE BEACON.

"Sir,—The Reading Competition is over, and I think we have every reason to thank and congratulate all concerned: Viscount Grey, for presenting the prizes and speaking such encouraging words; Professor Murray and Miss Resina Fillippi for acting as judges; Messrs. Le Breton Martin and Rowley for helping me to adjudicate in 'the preliminary

canter'; the officials of the National Library for the Blind for helping to make things go as well as they did, and last but not least, the competitors themselves. My own view is that the reading was very good . . . In the 'Preliminary' the points upon which we insisted were facility, accuracy, expression and clearness. Expression and facility were hardly ever wanting, and there was a fair amount of accuracy, though I think that one or two readers imagined that expression would supply its place. A few of the readers low down in the list spoilt their chances, I think, from lack of clearness, and some were

disposed too readily to treat each word as a separate entity instead of speaking legato. which is, of course, quite a different thing from slipshod utterance. I hope that everybody will realise the experimental nature of our proceedings and bombard Miss Prince with suggestions. I also hope that

everybody will go in again next year, excepting, of course, the winner of the first prize in the senior competition.—Yours, etc.,

WALTER H. DIXSON."

Oxford.

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THE PRINCE OF WALES devoted part of his 27th birthday, the 23rd of June, to Epping Forest and 1,000 poor children from Canning Town who were being given an outing there by Pearson's Fresh Air Fund. His Royal Highness, accompanied by Princess Mary, was received at Loughton headquarters of the Fund by Sir Arthur and Lady Pearson.

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A GOOD solid bit of work lasts; if its only laying a floor down, somebody's the better for it being done, beside the man who does it.

G. Eliot,





Γ is often asserted that blindness. compared with deafness or dumbness, is the least misfortune of the three. For those who have suffered from none of these, it is impossible to say with any certainty whether it is better to live in a silent or a darkened world, or to be denied the gift of speech. I remember reading a statement by a blind man who had lost his sight at the

age of fourteen to the effect that it was a mistake to be misled by the cheerfulness of the blind into thinking that they do not

bitterly feel their deprivation.

The idea of blindness for those who have sight strikes a chill. I have often wondered, without being able to come to any definite conclusion, whether, if blindness were inevitable, it would be better to have been born blind or to become blind, and strange as it may seem, I have come to the conclusion that it would be better to have seen than never to have seen at all. It is strange to think that there are a large number of people in this world who do not really know what the majority of objects are like; because however fully they have them described, they cannot possess for them absolute actuality.

Perhaps, if it be argued out logically, a blind child should not be so sad a sight as the blindness of a fully developed being, possessed of a mature imagination and desires, but sure it is that to the majority of individuals the sight of a blind child will come

with the sadder appeal.

One of the most promising signs of the true socialisation of our philanthropic movements is that we seem to be getting away from the merely institutional spirit as such. The hardness, bareness and greyness of the old philanthropic establishments are disappearing. Can it be that we are losing a certain attitude of patronage. For it cannot be denied that formerly there was a certain sense of doing a kindness, rather than

performing a duty.

The first feeling one gets on approaching "Sunshine House" is that it has all the restfulness, beauty and mellowness of a country home, and this feeling is accentuated when one enters. You know at once that the children have a right to be there. There is nothing of the institution about it.

I have always noticed that hospital and institution nurses are at their best when dealing with children. This is, of course, natural, and it was the atmosphere of true motherly sympathy which struck me as being

most in evidence.

I was first shown into a room with wide open French windows looking on to the pleasantest of gardens and a lovely English landscape beyond. On the floor of this very light and cheerful room were seated some thirteen or fourteen little children all apparently intent on some game or occupation. A less depressing spectacle it would have been impossible to see. There seemed to be no note which had not a touch of home. All was cheerfulness and light.

It is right that these children should live in such a place. Some may perhaps think that, as they cannot see, it does not matter very much whether their surroundings are beautiful or not. Indeed, it matters very much. It matters more to a blind child, perhaps, than to a child who sees. To the intensified capacity of those senses which they have many things are evident to them from which we are drawn aside by the sense of sight. I once knew a teacher in an open-air school who used to make her pupils sit in the midst of a pleasant wood with their eyes shut, and listen for all those wonderful sounds of nature to which most of us are deaf. The blind hear these innumerable sounds, all of them so harmonious, the great chord of nature in all its details; the magical song of the wind in the trees; of the breeze singing through the undergrowth; the low murmur

of life through the grasses; the song of remote birds, which in an ordinary way we do not hear. I can remember once coming across a little blind boy I knew, lying in a sunny corner of the garden with his ear to the ground. I asked him what he was doing, and he said "I am listening to two beetles having an upset." I am sure it would take me a long time before I could become sensitive to the domestic differences of beetles. Blind children, however, hear all these things. It is this that gives them at times that rapt expression. It is the same with the scent of flowers, of shrubs and of the different earths. This incense is to them more potent and more apparent than it is to us and they learn to differentiate far more surely. It is therefore fitting that they should live in "Sunshine Corner," for the sun is the great beneficence which rouses nature to express itself.

I have come to think that there is no affection like the affection of a blind child, and I can still see the exquisite smile which accompanied the outstretched arms of these little ones, greedy, as all human beings are, for love. I was taken possession of by Arthur, aged, I believe, four. Somebody said he was naughty because he hammered on the table with his heels for his dinner. Personally, I don't call it naughty. I call it a very effective way of announcing that you're hungry. I should like to have taken Arthur away with me, but I realised that even a little blind boy

is happier with his kind.

As I was standing in the hall saying goodbye to the nurses, I saw a sight which, sad as it was, was like the illustration to some fairy story. The children were going upstairs for their afternoon nap. The first child touched the wall with his hand and the next child laid his hand on him for guidance, and so there was a long line of these little things, each helping the other to climb. Nothing could be more typical of what life ought to be. In fact, of what life is; a world of blind creatures all helping one another to find the way.

There was once a very wise man who said there was no reason why wealth should not be as plentiful as water, and by wealth he did not mean mere luxuries, which is what a great many people seem to consider as wealth. He meant that if everybody unselfishly tried to adopt devices which would minimise human slavery, the essential means of existence would be produced with, to us, incredible economy. I think one of the

reasons why the condition of the blind has been so ameliorated is that here we have a great appeal to the heart. It is a tangible obvious case of distress which it is everybody's business to help as far as possible, and an almost unhoped for progress has been made. It is the appeal made through these extreme cases of deprivation and suffering that leads humanity more and more to realise the sum of human wants and to understand how it only requires selfishness to be got out of the way for human progress to take a great bound forward. Blindness surely has its uses, but when life is what it should be no one will be born blind. The conviction, which must carry a sense of guilt to society at large, is that but for carelessness and very often criminal carelessness, many of these little creatures need never have been blind at all. We cannot do too much for these blind children, for whether as generation, race or individuals, we are responsible, and if we do not do our best for them we are neglecting a most sacred duty.

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ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

A meeting of the Midland Branch of the Association of Teachers of the Blind was held at Leicester on June 11th. The principal subject under discussion at this meeting was that of Technical Instruction for the Blind, and two interesting papers were read, one by Miss West on "The Training of a Basket-Maker," and another, by Mr. Bigley, on "Bootmaking in Schools for the Blind."

An interesting feature of the afternoon's programme was an exhibition by the National Institute for the Blind of a number of recently issued books, models and appliances. In an adjoining room was displayed an assortment of Braille illustrated books, games and tools for the use of blind people.

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LAUGHING cheerfulness throws sunlight on all the paths of life. J. P. Richter.

EVERY duty which we omit obscures some truth which we should have known.

J. Ruskin.

BE master of yourself, first of all, and afterwards you will be master of others.

Gracian.

_____ Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

MAY, 1921

FICTION Tib and Sib, 2 vols. Stella Austin

The Secret Agent, 5 vols	J. Conrad
Joyce's Little Maid, 2 vols	N. Cornwall
Spade Work, 5 vols	Mrs. H. Dudeney
Crossriggs, 5 vols	M. & J. Findlater
Bartenstein Case, 3 vols	J. S. Fletcher
New Boy at Merriton	J. Goddard
The Jacket, 5 vols	Jack London
Landmarks, 4 vols	E. V. Lucas
Wreck of the "Golden Galleon"	Lucas Malet
Adventures of Herr Baby (Grade	I), 2 vols.
	Mrs. Molesworth
Captain Nancy, 3 vols	
Hugh's Sacrifice, 2 vols	C. M. Norris
The Silent Hand	A. Noves
Those Other Days, 3 vols	E. P. Oppenheim
Human Boy Again, 3 vols	Eden Phillpotts
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MISCELLANEO	US
Marshal Ferdinand Foch, his Li Theory of Modern War, 4 vols. Seven Men, 3 vols. North Italian Painters of Renaissa	A. H. Atteridge Max Beerbohm
(E. W. Austin Memoria	
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Three Sermons on Human Nature	
(E. W. Austin Memoria	
Story of the British Navy, from t	
Times to the Present Day, 5 vol	ls
E	Keble Chatterton
Chemistry of the Garden; A	Primer for
Amateurs and Young Gardeners	
Timateuryana Toung Gardener	H. H. Cousins
(E. W. Austin Memoria	
*Story of Sir Francis Drake, 2 vols	
	Ars. Oliver Eldon
Problems of Power, 7 vols W.	Ars. Oliver Eldon Morton Fullerton
Problems of Power, 7 vols W.	Ars. Oliver Eldon Morton Fullerton
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*Story of Captain Cook, 2 vols. John Lang

*Story of General Gordon, 2 vols. Jeanie Lang *George Westinghouse, 2 vols. F. E. Leupp Quiet Days in Spain, 4 vols. C. B. Luffmann *Story of Nelson, 2 vols. E. F. Sellar

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MUSIC PIANO—
Choral Symphony (with Vocal Score), 2 vols. Beethoven
Six English Suites
No. 6, D minor
Associated Board, 1921, Local Centre Examinations, Advanced Grade, List C:—
Sonata in A, Op. 120 (First Movement) Schubert Study in F
Valse in E flat A. Arensky

STUDIES-

Six Studies, Op. 52 (6 vols.)Saint-Saëns No. 1, Prelude in C No. 2, Pour l'indépendance des doigts.

No. 3, Prélude et Fugue en fa mineur

Man is a Spirit, 2 vols,

No. 4, Etude de Rythme. No. 5, Prelude et Fugue en la majeur

No. 6. En forme de Valse.

Collegiate Scale and Arpeggio Manuel (Edited by) E. Haddock

Vol. I, Elementary.

Vol. II, Intermediate.

Vol. III. Advanced.

In Modo Dorico (from Op. 132) C. Stanford

Recit, Arietta and Canzonetta G. Meyerbeer "Ditemi Buona Gente" (Tell me, I pray, good people)

" Dinorah "

Black Roses J. Sibelius Mantle of BlueFrank Bridge

THEORETICAL-

R. A. M. Metropolitan Exam. Papers :-Elements of Music and Musical Ornaments Subject II, Performers, September, 1920 Subject II, Performers, Christmas, 1920

* Stereotyped Books.

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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY

The following have been added to the Massage Library:—

Logic, by W. S. Jevon. In two vols.

Necessity of Orthopædic Training; its relation to the Prevention and Cure of Deformities, by Sir Robert Jones (pocket edition).

Notes on Home Nursing. In four volumes (pocket

edition)

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the June Numbers

- The Literary Journal.—Habent Sua Fata Libelli, by Maurice Baring—The Marriages of the Prince of Wales, by Professor R. S. Rait—The Spiritual Basis of Politics—Little Essays—National Library for the Blind—Massage Library—Hoole Bank, Chester— Scholarships for the Blind—Blind—Reviews of Books.
- The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.—The Orthopædic Treatment of Poliomyelitis—Official Notices—Lectures, etc.—Examination Notices—Medical Electricity Examination—A.C.B. M. Special Announcement.
- School Magazine.—Treasures in the British Museum and their Discovery, by Arthur Mee—In Darkest Mexico, by G. F. Weeks—Carl Linnæus (1707–1778)—On Special Service—Biography in Brief: Machiavelli (1469–1527)—Journeying into the Unknown Artic Snows, by Knud Rasmussen—Leather from the Sea—Northumberland (Poem), by Sir Henry Newbolt—Queries—Europe's Jungle—Ich Dien.
- The Hampstead.—According to "Bradshaw," by
 J. S. Fletcher—Grub Staking for Pearls—Beating
 the Early Bird—Best Stories.

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Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mine of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

Progress. — Editor's Note — Old London Bridge— Pearl Culture—A South Sea Bubble—Martha, by Walter de la Mare—Goats and their Young—Our Prize Competition—Garden Notes (June)—Marvels of Man's Larder—Postmaster's Castle—The Roof Concert (Poem)—Matters of the Moment—Some New Nelson Letters—The Question Box—Chess— Our Home Page—Advertisements—Supplement: The Optophone.

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Comrades.—The Father of the Iroquois, I, from a Legend of the Iroquois Indians (to be continued)— The Gentleman in Green, by Agnes M. Miall— Peter's Half-crown (Grade I)—Puzzles—In the Forests of the West, by H. Waddingham Seers—The Dutchman's Little Dog (Poem), by Sheila E. Braine.

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Santa Lucia.—Brave Woman's Wonderful Journey— Power of a Plant—Snails—The Pawn's Count, chapters 28-29 (to be continued), by E. Phillips Oppenheim —A Speck of Radium—How Silk is Made—Poor Snail.

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Luck Penny—World's Biggest Waterfall—Points about Peat — Our Two Winters—Pacemakers—Money Freaks—Tonics for Trees—New Publications.

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Braille Musical Magazine.—Parry as Song-Writer (continued)—Two Remarkable Birmingham Organs—Music at the National Institute—The National Institute for the Blind Edition—Correspondence—"Hoole Bank," Chester—Hymn "Crimes"—A Tuner's Notes—Notice to Music Teachers—Marcel Dupre's Organ Recital—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews; Inset: Organ, "Romance to the Evening Star" (Wagner's "Tannhäuser") arranged by Lemare; Song, "Sleep, Dear Heart," by Logan.

- HOOLE BANK, CHESTER. This beautiful residence standing in its own grounds twentythree acres in extent, has recently been opened as a Guest House for educated and refined blind
 folk in normal health and reduced circumstances. It is proposed to receive a few paying guests
 for holidays at £2 2s. per week each. Full particulars from the National Institute for the Blind,
 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.
- The After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind would be glad to hear from people who could offer good homes in private families to blind-deaf persons of both sexes, at a nominal charge. Anyone who is able to offer this, should apply to:—The Superintendent, "After-Care Department," National Institute for the Blind, 8 Carburton Street, Great Portland Street, W.I.

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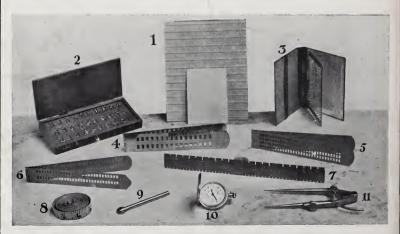
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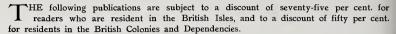
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

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4899	Story of Livingstone (Golding) Vol. 1 7	4	RGAN-		
4900	,, ,, 2 7	4 500			
4909	Story of Joan of Arc (Lang) Vol. 1 7	6	by Hollins (Bar by Bar)	7	5
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4911	Story of Abraham Lincoln (Hamilton) Vol. 1 8	6	Fugato," by Smart (Bar by Bar)	3	5
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4942 4943	,, ,, 310	4 5007			
4943	" " 4 10 The British Citizen (Peddie) Vol. 1 9	1 5008	Watling (Bar by Bar) 8 "Three Short Pieces," by Dunhill, Op. 46	2	0
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				2	0
	MISCELLANEOUS	5018			
4907	Book of Mazes (Various) 3	6	Yeomen of the Guard" (S.A.T.B.), by Sullivan (Open and Vertical Scores)	2	0
4908	Specification of N.I.B. Organ 1		EXAMINATION PAPERS—	-	Ĭ
4994	Notes on Teaching of First Piano	5019	9 Associated Board Examination Papers,	2	-
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TREBEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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RESIDENTIAL PROVISION FOR THE CARE OF THE BLIND BABY

(By Miss E. Walker Finlay, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of National "Bab Week" and Secretary and Organiser of the Blind Babies' Department of the National Institute for the Blind)

(This paper was read at the English-speaking Conference on Infant Welfare, which formed a feature of the National Baby Week Celebrations)



RADITION has taught us that with the advent of motherhood nature endowed woman with all knowledge necessary for the proper and careful upbringing of her children. The trend of civilisation, with its artificialities, its introduction of mechanical labour, its industrial congestions, its slums, overcrowding, and consequent disease, has modified this old

tradition, and education has had to take hands with the maternal instinct in instructing the mother how best to train and equip her young for the battle of life.

Ignorance, want of education and herediary disease are some of the causes of the
many difficulties which beset baby life. In
spite of all the efforts made to eradicate
these causes the results are evident in the
number of defective children we still have
amongst us, viz., cripples, mentally defectives,
deaf and dumb, epileptics, partially sighted
and those totally blind, for the blind baby
still exists in spite of the great efforts made
to reduce the number of cases of ophthalmia
neonatorum (which was made notifiable by
the compulsory order of 1st April, 1914),
and other forms of preventable disease.

Mr. Bishop Harman, the ophthalmic surgeon to the National Institute for the

Blind, has prepared the following statistics of blindness:-Blindness in children when traced to the original cause of the loss of sight will be found to differ in its proportions according to the age of the children under review. It is convenient, therefore, to state the figures for (1) infants under two years of age; and (2) school children between the ages of live and sixteen years. The figures for the infants are taken from the results of the examination of infants submitted for entry into the "Sunshine House." Those for school children are collected from the blind schools of the greatest educational authority in the country, probably in the world. The numbers run to several thousand, so that they may be taken as giving a very accurate result for a civilised country:-

STATISTICS *

INFANIS	
Cause of blindness:	Percentag
Congenital defects	30.4
Purulent Conjunctivitis:	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	49.2
Of later months	7.94
Inflammations within the eye	11.11
Accident	1.6
	100.00

^{*}There is no discrepancy between the figures contained in the lecture given by Miss Finlay and those to be found in the review of Mr. Bishop Harman's paper on page 12; the figures were taken at different periods and from different returns.

School Children	
Cause of blindness:	
Congenital defects	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
Inflammations within the eyes	
due to syphilis	
All other causes, accidents and	
non-syphilitic inflammations	

Percentage 27·13 19·79 31·43

21.65

100.00

It will be seen that of all preventable causes ophthalmia neonatorum is still the most frequent cause of blindness in infants; and that notwithstanding all the efforts that have been put forth for checking the onset and effects of this disease, efforts which have been very effective. In later years other diseases reduce the proportion of blindness due to this cause, for the later onset of inflammatory infections, particularly those due to syphilis in the parents, come into effect. With the cure of syphilis in the parents before children are produced this large cause for blindness in school children may be expected to decline with rapidity. Congenital defects, that is, eyes that are unfinished or defective, are less susceptible to prevention.

It is not the purpose of the paper to dwell on the tragedy of preventable blindness. It still exists among babies in sufficient degree to warrant the searchlight of public opinion being directed upon it. The blind baby requires special care, physically, mentally and educatively. The last named has been arranged for in the establishment of special schools by the Government for the blind children after they reach the age of five years, but the period of greatest difficulty for a blind child is the first five years of life. The habits and mannerisms of the man are not acquired entirely in the years of discretion, and the foundation of all of them

Until quite recently there was no school or institution which would receive a blind child until it had reached the age of five years, and when it is considered how important the first five years of a child's life are, it is readily understood that the need for a Home which would receive a blind baby from earliest infancy is a matter of utnost importance. For it must be remembered that in the majority of cases the blind baby comes from the poor home and is an unwanted member of society. The tragedy of this statement needs no elaboration, and even though the reverse were the case, it will be easily seen that the ordinary poor

is laid in the years of infancy.

working woman, who possibly has other children to look after, cannot be expected to give the necessary care and attention to the helpless little mortal who has come into the world under such a terrible handicap. She is ignorant and in her ignorance harms the child from the outset. Over-indulgence in every way is detrimental, and it is a natural tendency in the mother of a blind child to say: "Poor thing; he is blind and knows no better," and therefore he is treated as an abnormal being. The other type of parent is the aggressive one—resents having a defective child, and so neglects him, again with detrimental results.

The great secret of the treatment of blind babies during the first years then is normality. Given a normal blind child he should be treated as a normal baby, allowing for the elimination of one sense by urging the other ones to greater activity. It is a recognised fact that the non-sighted child is quite two years behind his sighted brother, but in normal surroundings there is little marked difference between the blind child of three or four years and a sighted child of the same age.

In order then to give a blind child the best send-off in life instruction should be given to the mother how best to train and treat the more unfortunate member of the family. It is an acknowledged fact that mothers and babies ought not to be separated. It is still more definitely stated in the blind world that the most successful blind men and women are those who have been brought up amongst sighted people, and these statements do not alter the fact that if many of the poor mites are not rescued from their sad environment in their early years, degeneracy of mentality as well as blindness is the sure result. No matter how much instruction or home training is given, such parents are not fitted to have the care of blind children. Then there are blind infants who have no known parents, or but one, whose circumstances render the care of an infant impossible. For these unfortunate children there is no home but the workhouse, unless one be made for them.

The alternative then is the establishment of Residential Homes, Homes where all the training that hitherto have been lacking will be provided. Hence it was that the National Institute for the Blind, under the Presidency of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., determined to found and equip a home where these poor

little helpless ones could be cared for and the initial stages of their education begun, so that when they reached the age of five years they could be sent to one of the many excellent schools that exist throughout the

country. The experiment at the Home for Blind Babies, felicitously named "Sunshine House," has been an unqualified success. "Sunshine House" is the first, and up to the present, the only one of its kind in the British Empire. The house is beautifully situated on high ground at Chorley Wood, Herts. The grounds consist of nine acres, partly garden in a high state of cultivation and partly pasture land. There is an abundance of fruit trees in great variety in the gardens and orchard. The Home, which was originally a large private house, has been remodelled and is furnished in keeping with the little children, e.g. the children's dining-room is furnished with tiny tables to accommodate four children, each child being provided with a tiny cane-seated armchair. In the play-room there are small cane chairs of various patterns, tiny tables and a goodly number of pretty washable rugs. All the clocks in the children's quarters are to an octave of eight notes forming the scale of "C." Great attention has been given to the tone of all instruments used for the children's benefit, so that their musical training will commence on right lines. The bedrooms are furnished with little white wooden cots, with high sides. The children's baths are on pedestals, so that the nurses can easily lift the children in and out. Quite a feature of the Home is a beautiful little surgery suitably equipped. The lighting in the rooms is by the inverted pendant system, so that the light is diffused about the room by the reflection on the ceiling; the object of this arrangement being to make the light as pleasant as possible to those little ones who can differentiate between light and dark and to whom a glaring light would be detrimental.

The foregoing is a brief sketch of the outline of the Home as it has been occupied for the last two and a half years by twenty-five blind children up to five years of age, and the following enumerates some of the advantages derived from residential treatment as deduced from practical experience:

HEALTH

(a) Medical Supervision.—Children are examined for admittance to the Home; special defects and weaknesses are chronicled

in case papers and specialised treatment is given for such defects. Children are under constant and regular expert medical supervision.

(b) Diet.—The two essentials are regularity of meals, also variety suitable to the age of the children. They are taught to eat normally, to feed themselves as soon as they become old enough, and, in order to procure the most successful results, at an early age they are taught to sit at table and use table appurtenances adapted to their tender years and limitations.

(c) Clothing. — A "uniform" style of thoroughly hygienic garment in some washing material is substituted for the conglomerate, often unnecessary and undesirable garments which are usually the casts-off of older brothers and sisters and very seldom have the benefit of the washtub. Here again the babies are constantly being educated, for they are taught to fasten and unfasten their own garments as soon as the little fingers are strong enough to attack the fastenings.

There are other advantages, such as regular rest hours, regularity in habits, absolute cleanliness, recreation in the fresh air, a judicious amount of romping, all of which belong to the life of a normal sighted baby and which should therefore belong to the life of a non-sighted baby.

EDUCATION

By this term is meant the bringing up, the training and the cultivating of the dawning intellect, the guiding of the inquiring mind and the controlling of the subconscious faculties, which at a later date will combine to form the character of the man.

(a) Babyhood (from birth to two years). The blind baby, whether lying in his cot, on the rug, or in the nurse's arms, receives attention every moment he is awake, and is kept occupied as far as practicable. Nurse's voice is loving and caressing, and the developing brain learns to differentiate between the near and far-away sound and the direction from which the sound comes. When he is strong enough the hand of the nurse will guide him from place to place, round the room and furniture, telling him the name of each article as he meets it, and so storing up different impressions in the baby mind from day to day. Again the great secret of this early training is normality; he is talked to, he is played with, he is fed and runs about; he is exactly as if he had no limitations or was in any way deprived of the

sense which is one of the greatest blessings given to mankind.

In his normal babyhood he is taught to develop freedom of will. His own natural temperament leads him to "want to do things," but his infirmity puts an obstacle in the way because of the uncertain knowledge of his childish brain and the limitations of his powers. Viewed then in this light the non-sighted child does not have the same freedom of will as the sighted child, and the senses which co-operate under careful guidance to make up for this deficiency receive a very special training. In short, the child is trained in reconsensing in the kindergarten training which follows on babyhood days.

KINDERGARTEN TRAINING

During this period as well as in all the later periods of school life ordinary curriculums have to be adapted to suit the special requirements of a blind child. The Home therefore includes on its staff a qualified teacher and special apparatus to meet with these demands. Lacking one sense, the blind child is trained to utilise the remaining four to their utmost capacity, and particularly hearing and touch, which must go hand in hand to produce the impressions on the brain which the sense of sight does in the sighted world. The blind child is taught to reconsense.

The explanation of this word is quite simple. It is merely a collecting together of impressions taken by the senses; these are "stored back" in the brain for further use when required. The blind child, therefore, is taught to have this "freedom of will," so that when he "hears" of something he thereupon "touches" something, gets a careful account of the same article, including colour (which after all is an unknown quantity in the blind world); he immediately collects the results he has acquired, "pigeonholes" them in his brain and reconsenses them for recurrence of a series of impressions which will produce the same association of ideas. Thus reconsensing becomes a twin brother to memory and at the same time is memory's adjunct, because properly trained reconsensing adds a quality to memory, i.e. accuracy. Having thus been trained to develop the important senses of hearing and touching during the period of babyhood and laid the foundation of an accurate memory, the child will be ready to begin his school

days and develop all the conscious and sub-conscious activities of his brain.

With regard to other training, the methods adopted are along the lines of Froebel and Montessori, special notice being given to Aural Culture: Eurythmics.

Toys are chosen with a view to the training of the senses of hearing and touch. Musical toys of every description have first consideration, gramophone, musical boxes, piano, are all chosen with a view to harmony.

Mannerisms and Defects. _ Special attention is given to the correction of bad habits. His little tricks and ways, that in many cases may be looked on by the ignorant as funny and so encouraged, are corrected, otherwise in later years their ludicrousness verges into ugliness. These tricks are quite the invention of the child's imagination, and arise in most cases from lack of occupation both of mind and fingers. The swaying of the head and body, the twisting of the fingers in an aimless weaving movement, the restless kicking of feet or furniture in the sighted child or man point to weakness of intellect or total imbecility. Not so in the case of the blind child. In early years these grow from lack of anything to do, and, it is regrettable to say, often develop as above mentioned if not checked early.

The child in the Home is watched most carefully, and proper occupation, which will do much to remedy the evil, is given. The child cannot see the correct method of doing things, and therefore it is necessary to use

precept as well as example.

It is early days, since the residential treatment of the blind baby has only been in operation just over two years, to state specific results, but Dr. Eric Pritchard, who examines all children who pass into "Sunshine House," has recently stated:—

"Experience proves that when blind babies are brought up under ordinary conditions of home life they develop very slowly both mentally and physically and seldom attain in either respect to the ordinary standard of health. It is perhaps too soon to speak of the results achieved at 'Sunshine House,' but every entrant for this Institution passes through my hands, and owing to neglect at home and unfavourable environment I find it often difficult to decide whether the mental condition of these children is too debased to warrant the

expenditure of energy in an attempt to raise them to that level of intelligence which is necessary for a life useful to the community. I find, however, that the majority of these children improve out of all recognition within a few months of their entrance into the Home, and for the most part falsify the gloomy prognostications I feel inclined to take of their condition."

Perhaps more eloquent of the effective work that is carried on by residential treatment of blind babies are the reports received from enthusiastic parents, interested friends and the head teachers of the schools to which "Sunshine" babies are drafted when they reach the age of five years. In the case of one child the head teacher of an L.C.C. school definitely states that little E. B., thanks to her training at "Sunshine House," is far in advance of many blind children at her age. The Headmaster of another school for the blind writes:-"Your 'Sunshine' Babies are two little men," whilst a Headmistress in the North says: "Child has more ability than an average child of his age."

Letters from parents embody such remarks as:—"Little P. is very happy, and for the short time she has been at 'Sunshine House' she has greatly improved." Also: "I always tell my friends when they wonder why little K. is so contented that I feel it has a lot to do with the training she had at 'Sunshine House.'"

These reports, with the commendations received from medical men, support our belief that for the blind baby residential provision is preferable to the present, often undesirable, home surroundings, and it lays the surest foundation for the strong, healthful and normal blind person of the future. It brings into the life of the blind man and woman the sunshine which would otherwise be lacking, and provides him with the means of treating his infirmity as a handicap rather than an affliction.

CORRESPONDENCE

To The Editor of "THE BEACON."

DEAR SIR,—I wonder if any of your readers could enlighten me on a subject which has just occurred to me. The other day I had occasion to write a word which I had not come across for some time. Now, I have always prided myself on being a particularly good speller, but, if I may be permitted to

use a vulgarism, I found myself on this occasion "regularly stumped." Of course the trouble arose from the fact that I had neither seen the word in print nor had occasion to use it for a considerable space of time. This fact set me wondering as to whether people who have lost their sight and are thereby cut off from the printed word are liable to become particularly bad spellers.

It would be extremely interesting to hear what some of your readers have to say on this subject.—Yours, etc.,

" SPELLER."

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HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND

AN important step forward in the education of the blind has been taken with the opening of a college for the Higher Education of Blind Girls, under the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind. This college, which forms a sister institution to the Worcester College for Blind Boys, is known as The Cedars, and is situated on the edge of Chorley Wood Common, Herts. The house was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Batty to the National Institute for the Blind. It is surrounded by extensive grounds which contain some magnificent cedar-trees, famous for their age and their beauty.

No pains have been spared to equip the college in a manner which will bear comparison with the best secondary schools in the Kingdom. Totally blind girls, as well as those who do not possess any useful degree of sight, are given all the advantages of a first-class and specialised education, which will enable them later in life to compete successfully with their sighted sisters. The school curriculum includes Religious Knowledge, English, History, Geography, Mathematics, Science, Modern Languages, Classics, Domestic and other Arts and Crafts, Music, Gymnastics, Dancing, Gardening, and other provisions for out-door exercise. There is a preparatory class for pupils from 7-12 years old, and a main school for pupils up to the age of 19, whilst older girls who wish to specialise in certain subjects are given the opportunity remaining at the college for that purpose.

Parents or guardians who are interested in this matter should communicate with Miss Phyllis Monk, The Cedars, Chorley Wood, Herts.

A VICTORY OVER BLINDNESS

In The Beacon of last September we recorded the fact that a blind schoolgirl, Miss Sadie Isaacs, had successfully passed the matriculation examination of the University of London.

We now have pleasure in stating that Miss Isaacs, who is a student at University College, has passed the Intermediate Examination for the B.A. degree at the London University, taking a first class and prize in English, a first class in history, a first class in Roman history and a first class in Latin. In any circumstances this record would reflect great distinction upon the student who had earned a measure of success so unusual in character. It is all the more remarkable when the incidents of Miss Isaacs' life are taken into consideration. Some fourteen years ago, as a little child, she fell ill with scarlet fever, was removed to hospital and lost the sight of both eyes irretrievably. The despair of a sightless life might have engulfed all her hopes and desires for ever, but not so with Sadie. She began to attend the small and unpretentious Council School for little blind children at Morning Lane, Hackney. Her grasp of knowledge there found its first opportunity under Miss Delph, a blind teacher. She proceeded to the Elm Court Council School at Tulse Hill where she spent valuable years under Miss Rothwell's capable instruction until she was sixteen. Miss Rothwell made great efforts to obtain facilities for higher education, enlisting the help of the Union of Jewish Women and the National Institute for the Blind, with the result that Sadie was enabled to proceed to her course in Secondary Education at the Central Foundation School, Bishopsgate, under Miss Hanidge. Here she worked assiduously for the London Matriculation, which, as we mentioned above, she passed in 1920. Through the help of the Union of Jewish Women she was enabled to enter University College, and then efforts were successfully made to obtain for her a free place from the London County The National Council at the College. Institute for the Blind, Gardner's Trust, and many private friends have throughout been of much practical help to Sadie in her course of study at the College. She is now preparing for her Honours Final Examination.

We are indebted to Mrs. Eichholtz, President of the Union of Jewish Women, for the above account of Miss Isaac's career. Commenting on this unique record, Mrs. Eichholtz says:—

"The record would be incomplete if mention were not made of the constant help given to Sadie by her father, who is untiring in his efforts to read to her every type of literary work which may assist her in her studies. It is felt that all will rejoice to hear of the success of a clever girl for whom God has willed that though her sight be taken, the light shall not fail."

DANCING COMPETITION

SPECIAL Dancing Competition has been arranged in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, 37 Bolsover Street, London, W.1. The period of the competition will extend from October to the end of the year. Three dances are suggested, a waltz, a fox-trot and a one-step, the entrance fee being 2s. 6d. for the three dances or 1s. for each dance. Each competitor will be expected to purchase a copy of the special dance music, which will be published by Mr. Herman Darewski at 1s. per copy. The profits of the competition and also of the sale of music will be devoted to the Greater London Fund for the Blind. We understand that substantial prizes are being arranged for the most proficient dancers.

A particular item of interest in connection with this competition is the suggestion that the dances should as far as possible be the compositions of blind musicians. As the time is rather short we would urge blind musicians of both sexes to send in suitable compositions, in staff notation, at the earliest possible moment, not later than Saturday, 27th August, up to which date preference will be given to blind composers. Three prizes of five guineas each will be given (to blind musicians only): 1, for the best waltz; 2, the best fox-trot; and 3, the best one-step.

Candidates should send in their compositions, marked "Competition" in the left-hand corner, to Mr. F. J. Laverack, Greater London Fund for the Blind, 37 Bolsover Street, W.1.

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IT is only by labour that thought can be made healthy, and it is only by thought that labour can be made happy.

REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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HE Annual Report of Sir George Newman, the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, for the year 1920, is published by the Stationery Office (price 1s. 6d.) and deals comprehensively and in a popular manner with the state of public health during the year 1920 as revealed by official statistics and by the work and records of the Ministry. From a perusal of

this report three encouraging facts may be gleaned :- 1. A steady improvement in the health of the people. 2. A substantial rise in the birth-rate, which reached the figure of 25.4 as compared with 18.5 in 1919. 3. The lowest infant mortality rate on record, namely that of 80 per 1,000 births. The fall in infant mortality is held to be due not so much to any one factor as to general enlightenment and the co-ordination of ameliorative agencies on behalf of the mother. The number of mothers who go regularly to infant welfare centres is given as probably not less than 150,000. At least one-sixth of the total number of babies born come directly under the supervision of doctor and nurse in addition to a much larger number who are visited at their own homes.

Expenditure in sickness and disablement benefit shows that the time lost from employment amounted to 270,000 years per annum for the insured population alone. There has been no alarming epidemic during the year, but cases of infectious disease exceeded half a million, and there was also a great amount of disability and incompetence from relatively trivial sickness. Epidemic diseases have been characterised by a low rate of mortality. The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is by far the lowest ever recorded, but the disease remains one of the most formidable enemies of the race.

The policy and practice of the Ministry of Health in regard to venereal disease are based largely on the findings of the Royal Commission of 1916. Except for providing for the confidential registration of the cause

of death, the Ministry have carried out all the important recommendations of the Commission and extended their application. Sixtyeight laboratories have been approved for pathological investigation and diagnosis work. In 1920 there were made 69,000 microscopical examinations, and 138,000 Wassermann tests. Venereal disease schemes of treatment have been instituted in 142 counties and county boroughs. Special provision is now made in twenty-two medical schools for teaching medical students the diagnosis, pathology and treatment of venereal disease. The effect of communal action against these diseases is extremely difficult to measure, but without drawing any general deductions from available figures it seems that in the fourth year of the scheme :-

1. There was a total of new cases treated in clinics (including non-venereal cases) of 103,000. The total number of attendances was 1,488,000.

2. The rapid rise of "new" cases in 1918, 1919, did not continue. The number (quite untrustworthy as a basis for calculations) remained stationary.

3. The total number of attendances has increased greatly, the clinics being more appreciated as time passes.

The Report covers a number of other important functions of the Ministry of Health and contains chapters on "The Relation of Food to Disease," "Medical and Sanitary Administration," Medical Intelligence Investigation and International Health," as well as several important Appendices.

In his summing-up Sir George Newman emphasises the need for "intensive culture" of fields already tilled rather than the exploitation of fresh pastures. "If authorities," he says, "would only put into wise operation the health legislation they possess before seeking further powers from Parliament, an immense advance, truly conservative and truly constructive, would be made." It is in the hands of the local authority that the main business of the execution of a national health policy rests.





UR brief biography this month is that of a Swiss mathematician and writer. Leonhard Euler by name. who, in spite of the handicap of blindness, made for himself in the world of science a name which will go down through the ages. The son of a Calvinistic pastor,

was born at Bâle

in the year 1707. After receiving preliminary instruction in mathematics from his father, he was sent to the University of Bâle, where geometry soon became his favourite study. Having taken his degree as Master of Arts. Euler applied himself to the study of theology and the oriental languages with the view of entering the Church, but soon returned to geometry and physiology as his principal pursuits. While engaged in physiological researches he composed a dissertation

propagation of sound, and an answer to a prize question concerning the masting of ships, to which the French Academy adjudged the second rank in the year 1727.

In that year, on the invitation of Catherine I, Euler took up his residence in St. Petersburg, and was made an Associate of the Academy of Sciences. In 1730 he became Professor of Physics, and in 1733 he succeeded Daniel Bernoulli in the chair of mathematics. At this period he carried the integral calculus to a higher degree of perfection, invented the calculation of sines, reduced analytical operations to a greater degree of simplicity, and threw new light on nearly all parts of pure mathematics. In 1735 a problem proposed

by the Academy, for the solution of which several eminent mathematicians had demanded the space of some months. was solved by Euler in three days. The Daniel Bernoulli.

Great to go to Berlin.

effort threw himinto a fever, which endangered his life and deprived him of the use of his right eve. In 1738 the Academy of Sciences at Paris adjudged the prize to his memoir on the nature and properties of fire, and in 1740 his treatise on the tides shared the prize with the treatises written by the two eminent mathematicians. Colin Maclaurin and The following year he was invited by Frederick the

and here he was created a Professor of Mathematics. He is responsible for a large number of important researches at this period; at the same time he continued his philosophical contributions to the Academy of St. Petersburg, which granted him a pension.

In 1766 Euler returned to St. Petersburg. Soon afterwards a cataract formed in his



LEONHARD EULER

on the nature and (From a picture by A. Lorgna, in the collection of the Institute of France)

left eye, and this ultimately deprived him of his sight. He was therefore obliged to dictate his famous "Introduction to Algebra" to a servant who had been a tailor's apprentice and was entirely devoid of mathematical knowledge. The work, though of an entirely elementary nature, displays the mathematical genius of its author, and is still considered one of the best productions of its kind. During the previous year Euler had been elected a foreign member of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, and some time afterwards the Academical prize was adjudged to three of his memoirs "Concerning the Inequalities in the Motions of the Planets." The two prize questions proposed by this Academy for 1770 and 1772 were designed to obtain a more perfect theory of the moon's motion. With the assistance of his son. Euler successfully competed for both these prizes. In the second memoir he reserved for further consideration several inequalities of the moon's motion, which he was unable to determine in his first theory. Subsequently he reviewed the entire theory with the assistance of his son and of two colleagues, and pursued his researches until he had constructed the new tables which were published in his "Theoria Motuum Lunæ." The great difficulties of his task were accentuated by his blindness; Euler was obliged to carry all the elaborate computations involved in his researches in his memory. After an operation he regained his vision. only to lose it once more, but he continued his labours undeterred by the loss or by the infirmities of advanced age. His last subject of investigation was the motion of balloons, and the last subject upon which he conversed was the newly discovered planet Herschel (Uranus). He died of apoplexy in the year 1783. . . . Mr. Wilson, in his "Biographies of the Blind," writes of him as follows :-

"He was a man whose cultivated mind and high intellectual attainments and, above all, his deep and unaffected piety, have rendered him the ornament of his country, and will transmit his name to posterity. . . . His death was considered as a public loss, even in the country which he inhabited. The Academy of St. Petersburg went into deep mourning for him, and voted a marble bust of him, at their own expense, to be placed in their Assembly Hall. An honour still more distinguished had been conferred on him, by that learned body, in his lifetime. In an

allegorical painting, a figure of Geometry is represented leaning on a table, exhibiting mathematical calculations, and the characters inscribed, by order of the Academy, are the formulas of his new theory of the moon."

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NEW INVENTION BY A BLIND TUNER

THREE members of the National Institute's Tuning Board visited the Woodberry Hotel recently for the purpose of examining a piano action which is being patented by Mr. Lee and Mr. S. B. Tucker, who is blind.

This action is peculiarly suited to the blind. It is simple, effective, durable, very accessible for repairs and easy to regulate, one very distinctive feature being the circumstance that each key (in under damper and flat grand actions) with its attendant section of action, can be removed separately without taking out the action. Briefly it may be described as follows: A hopper in the form of a bell crank is hinged near the angle to a carriage so that its height may be regulated. One arm of the crank is the fly and check, and the other, which runs in the direction of the key front and beneath which there is a spiral spring, is for the set-off. A lever which is hinged to the back rail receives its motion from the fly through a covered nipple. The hammer is actuated by a link which is pinned pivot-fashion at one end to the lever and at the other to the butt. The dampers work in the usual manner. Such an action must have a successful future.

The new action is financed by Mr. Barber, of the Woodberry Hotel. Pianos fitted with the new action are supplied by "The Improved Piano Company," Alliance Mills, Windus Road, Stoke Newington, London.



THE Tantalon Hotel, North Berwick, has just been acquired as a holiday annexe for Scottish and North of England blinded soldiers and sailors. The opening ceremony was performed on July 18th by Sir Arthur Pearson, who stated that the home had been presented and furnished by a grant from the United Service Fund. St. Dunstan's, North Berwick, stands in a magnificent position, overlooking the Firth of Forth, and can provide for forty-five men.



EWCASTLE WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.—The Tenth Annual Report of these workshops shows that a trading turnover of £9,204 was realised during the year. The amount of wages paid and grants in aid amounted to over £5,000.

Accrington and District Institution.—The building of this institution was purchased at the beginning of this year. For this purpose the sum of £1,000 was allocated by the National Institute for the Blind, from funds raised by the Institute in that district.

Kent County Association for the Blind.

—The First Annual Meeting of this association, which was formed at Maidstone twelve months ago, took place recently. The report states that the names of 920 blind persons appear on the register in this county, and that the number of blind home-workers is 121.

Huddersfield Blind Society.— This society has recently issued a report which covers a period of eighteen months. During this period the sum of £718 was expended for relief, and it was stated that seven girls had been in receipt of the Government grant to home workers of 8s. weekly; this was supplemented by an additional grant of 2s. weekly from the society itself. It is interesting to note that one of the home workers has knitted 780 pairs of stockings during the period under review.

Leeds Incorporated Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb.—The Forty-Fifth Annual Report of this institution announces a record turnover in the various trading departments, the sum realised being that of £23,588, as compared with that of £17,712 for nine months of the year 1919-20.

The sum of £7,384 was paid to the blind in wages, supplementary wages, gratuities, holiday allowances and free dinners; £635 was disbursed in pensions and relief to blind workers, and £171 to deaf non-workers. The number of blind workers in the trading departments at the close of the financial year was 87.

A financial campaign, organised in Leeds and district by the National Institute for the Blind, resulted in £6,691 being allocated to Leeds Institution.

Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind.—Some interesting facts and figures are contained in the Seventy-fourth Annual General Report of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind. In moving the adoption of this Report at the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman, Mr. Alfred Wilson, brought the manifold activities of the Institution under review. He referred to the fact that last year there had been a considerable increase of infantile ophthalmia, no fewer than 440 cases having been notified. So great, however, was the immediate care now being bestowed on infants at birth, that in only ten cases had the evesight been permanently damaged. There had been no case of total blindness from this complaint since 1903—a great testimony to the work of the Health Department of the city.

The total number of blind persons who received benefits by means of the Institution throughout the year was 1,087. Certificates of blindness had been issued to 148 blind persons to assist them in their application for the old-age pension. During the year under review the sum of £2,002 was received in legacies. Goods sales realised the sum of £45,228.

At the conclusion of the meeting great interest was evinced in the inauguration of a very fine organ, the work of Messrs. Rushworth and Draper, of Liverpool. The erection of this organ was due to the munificence of the Carnegie Trustees and

to the generosity of the public. At the opening ceremony a programme of well-selected items was listened to with much appreciation by a numerous audience, the performer being Mr. C. W. Perkins, City organist of Birmingham.

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INTERESTING details concerning the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum and School are given in a paragraph which appeared recently in a Scottish paper from which we

quote the following:-

"Following Valentin Hauy, who in 1789 instituted in Paris the first school for the blind, there came James Gall, publisher and printer in Edinburgh, with his serrated lines, embossed books, and the scholastic microcosm. It was in a house situated near the Blind Asylum and Women's Home that he opened a school for blind children in 1833. This school occupied one room, was staffed by one blind teacher and contained a single scholar. With the steady growth of the school, more commodious quarters were obtained, and when, in 1876, the Blind Asylum and the school amalgamated, the pupils were transferred to the fine Gothic edifice at West Craigmillar. In the year 1853, Her Majesty Queen Victoria founded a scholarship for the Higher Education of the Blind, the student obtaining this scholarship being known as the 'Queen's Scholar.' The Royal Blind Asylum is one of the three schools for the blind in the United Kingdom which possesses a department for secondary education. The school comprises a nursery section, primary, secondary and technical courses, and a junior student centre. The youngest pupil is a little over two years of age. The education of the blind child is based on the same lines as those which obtain at an ordinary school, with the exception of drawing and the addition of Braille. Physical exercises form an important item in the school curriculum, and the social side of the institution is by no means neglected. Students have also been eminently successful in the examinations of the College of Organists and of the Royal Academy of Music.

"West Craigmillar boasts the only Braille Printing Press in Scotland. The institute publishes three Braille magazines, The Craigmillar Harp, The Church Messenger.

and Hora Jocunda."

"THE Cause of the Blind" was the subject of an address delivered before the

members of the Edinburgh Rotary Club on June 2nd by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Burns, Chairman of the Royal Blind Asylum and School.

In the course of his address Dr. Burns said there were in Scotland 5.138 blind persons. Of this number 960 were being educated, trained or employed at the present time in institutions for the blind. There were 4.178 who were not under the jurisdiction of an institution, and of whom 998 were above the age of 70, and 1,814 between 50 and 70 years of age and therefore eligible for an old age pension under the Blind Persons Act. 816 blind persons were employed otherwise than in institutions, 2,891 blind persons were unemployable, and there were nearly 300 employable for whom work could not be found. At the present time there were 358 on the roll of the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum School.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS

EXAMINATION

THE results of the College of Teachers of the Blind Examination held at Odsal House School for the Blind, Bradford, on 10th and 11th May, 1921, were as follows:—

Phyllis Mildred Robinson.—Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practice of Teaching and Infant Teaching.

Edith Alice Shires. — Honours in Arithmetic.

Kate Stokes.—Honours in Theoretical Braille and Hand Knitting.

Annie Eliza Wheeler. — Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille and Practice of Teaching.

Since the foundation of the College the number of candidates, including the above, who have certificates is as follows:—

I DO not think that the road to contentment lies in despairing what we have not got. Let us acknowledge all good, all delight that the world holds and be content without it.

G. Macdonald.

CAUSES AND PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

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MOST useful and interesting paper on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness was recently read by Mr. N. Bishop Harman before the Ophthalmological Section of the British Medical Association, which has just concluded its deliberations

at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

It will be remembered that a series of articles appeared in this journal some time ago, in which

we reviewed Mr. Harman's book on "The Prevention of Blindness." The facts, however, in the paper before us are brought up to date, and valuable information is contained therein.

It should be noted that Mr. Harman is Ophthalmic Surgeon to the West London Hospital, the Belgrave Hospital for Children, and the National Institute for the Blind; and, in addition, the exhaustive work he has performed on behalf of the London County Council is so well known as to need no commendation from us.

We are forcibly struck with the opening paragraph of this paper. Mr. Harman says: "We need a sound knowledge of the causes of blindness, else we cannot take effective steps to prevent blindness." This may at first sight appear a mere commonplace; but it is nothing of the kind, and it is certainly a significant commentary when applied to the actions and dispositions of those facetious quacks who claim to be practising the healing sciences.

We are reminded pertinently that, "We need to prevent blindness because of the cruel hardships it entails upon the blind person and because a blind person is directly or indirectly a heavy charge upon the resources of the community.'

Mr. Harman examined 4,288 cases, drawing his facts from three sources, viz., (1) a home for blind infants conducted by the National Institute for the Blind; (2) the schools for the blind and partly blind of the London Education Committee; and (3) private case books.

Reference to the first group shows that 63 babies were examined. The causes of blindness found may be grouped under: (I) surface inflammations; (II) inflammations within the eyes; (III) congenital defects.

Group I was found to contain 36 cases. Of these 31 were due to ophthalmia neonatorum and 5 to purulent conjunctivitis of later months. Of the latter 5 cases, one lost the sight during the third week of life: the cause is not known, but from the history it is judged that there had been a streptococcal* infection and a particularly destructive inflammation. Scarlet fever, diphtheria and measles accounted for one each, and one was due to an unknown cause. In Group II there are 7 cases to be found. Two were due to iridocyclitis and 5 resulted from optic atrophy or defect. Group III contains 19 cases, all suffering from congenital defects. There is one case of blindness due to accident; the child was burned, and both eyes were

School Children .- For the past 17 years Mr. Harman has had oversight of a number of London schools for the blind. There are 6 day centres, accommodating 211 children, and 2 residential schools for the older children, accommodating 116. There is a large and growing provision of "myope classes" for the partially sighted in 33 centres, accommodating 660 children. During the period of attendance at school the eyes are examined periodically, so that there is ample opportunity for the revision or confirmation of the diagnosis. The total number of blind and partially sighted children brought into this inquiry is 3,300. The conditions responsible for their state may be placed in four groups:-

^{*} Streptococcus is the name given to a variety of micro-organism which, under the microscope, has much the appearance of a string of beads. It is responsible for erysipelas and other virulent forms of inflammation .- (Black's Medical Dictionary).

- I Injury or destruction of the cornea consequent on surface inflammations.
- II Inflammation within the eyeball or optic nerve.
- III Congenital defects of the eyes.
- IV Myopia.

We append an interesting table taken from the paper before us which shows the differences in percentages between the years 1913 and 1920, and we entirely concur with the view expressed by the eminent ophthalmologist in this connection, viz.: "It would appear that the fall in the percentage of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum is a real fall, and that the apparent small increases of the three other groups are merely proportionate increases due to the fall in the second factor":—

DISEASE	1913	1920	Rise	Fall
Congenital defects	25.06	27.13	2.07	_
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	24.17	19.79	_	4.38
Syphilitic inflammation .	29.70	31.43	1.73	_
Miscellaneous	20.47	21.65	1.18	_

Results obtained in Private Practice.— In this connection Mr. Harman says: "The desirability of securing data of blind persons of all ages led me to investigate a series of my own private cases. Some 5.000 were examined seriatim. The patients were of all classeswell-to-do, middle class and some artisan. with an inclusion of a certain number of persons, mainly of the working classes, referred for examination and report by the National Institute for the Blind. This inclusion perhaps swells the number of the blind beyond the usual private practice. patients were of all ages, and, as may be expected, adults were in the majority; 925, or about one-fifth of all these patients, were blind or partly blind in one or both eyes; 608, or about one-eighth, were blind or partly blind in both eyes." Of this latter number the writer says that 34 cases were due to congenital defects; accidents, 20; purulent conjunctivitis, 34; corneal diseases, 51; cataract, 94; iritis and irido-cyclitis, 56; vascular diseases, 49; detached retina, 14; choroiditis, 77; optic atrophy, 38; glaucoma, 55; malignant causes, 2; and myopia, 84.

We are further informed that of 81 cases examined 54 were attributable to casual accidents and only 27 resulted from industrial causes. For the most part the casual accidents destroyed one eye only, the other remaining healthy, so that most of the patients were able to carry on with their usual occupation. One-third of the industrial cases were

permanently blind, and approximately onefifth of those resulting from casual accidents. Of the cases of industrial blindness (27 in number) at least 10 belong to the preventable order. There were 3 cases of sympathetic ophthalmitis after casual accidents, and the same number after industrial. In children, missiles, whether thrown by hand or discharged from some form of toy gun or catapult, were the most prolific causes of loss. In later years amateur wood chopping accounted for more cases thau any other single cause.

Referring to statements made in popular literature, Mr. Harman observes: "Examination of popular literature indicates that wholly erroneous beliefs are held as to the causes of blindness, owing to the laxity with which statistics are quoted. Looking at these returns one would be justified in stating that 50 per cent, of the blindness of infancy is due to the preventable disease of ophthalmia neonatorum, but wholly wrong in stating that 50 per cent, of blindness was due to this cause. Again, it would be correct to state that 50 per cent, of the blindness in school children is due to parental venereal disease, but not that 50 per cent, of blindness is due to venereal disease; yet I have seen this statement in print, based on an incorrect quotation of my 1913 returns. The true figures for 'all ages' are seen to be: blindness from gonorrhœal disease, 2.5 per cent.; from syphilis, 9 per cent."

Prevention.—Referring to prevention of blindness, we are told that "If we examine the tale of the causes of blindness we shall see that there are certain causes over which we can have little influence, and others which are well within our power of prevention, possibly of extinction."

(a) Congenital Defects.—" Too little is known of the primary causes of sporadic cases to permit of useful suggestion. A small number are hereditary; where the defect is serious, marriage and parenthood are undesirable."

(b) Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—"Prevention of the disease can be secured by the treatment of the vaginal disease of the expectant mother; this is the one and only certain means of prevention. And it is within our power to accomplish this desirable end. Measures to check the effect of the infection in infants have reached a high measure of success. Prophylaxis and notification have done much to this end. Short of a stiffening

up of the procedure in certain districts of the country these measures have accomplished all they can." Mr. Harman would like to see established such medical arrangements that diagnosis and treatment can be made as swiftly as the fire brigade can be brought in when there is an outbreak of fire in our homes. "There should be a small hospital to which affected mothers and infants could be transferred for treatment. To this there should be attached a mobile diagnostic unit. A motor car, fitted with a small laboratory equipment, with an expert ophthalmic surgeon and nurse; the unit should be available for immediate attendance at any home where a suspected case occurs. Midwife or doctor in attendance should notify the initial symptoms of any case, so that the mobile unit could proceed to its investigation without delay. If the surgeon should find the diagnosis proven it should be possible to remove the mother and infant to the hospital for treatment forthwith. The benefits of prompt removal of affected cases have been demonstrated in Liverpool. A similar hospital has been established in London, but its benefits have been almost nullified owing to the lateness of the transfer of cases." Mr. Harman pertinently adds that he believes medical men would welcome the possibilities of prompt assistance in diagnosis. "for cases are not numerous, and accurate diagnosis is only possible where there is constant handling of these cases. The cost would be little compared with the benefits in the reduction of blindness."

(c) Syphilis.—We are reminded that syphilis is one of the most prolific causes of blindness and that it is certainly preventable.

"It rests with the success of the centres for treatment of venereal diseases. If parents were effectively treated before procreation, cases of blind children from this cause would be extinct."

(d) Industrial Accidents.—Making further observations on industrial accidents, the writer states that "Blindness from this cause is likely to show variation in different parts of the country. It will be high in industrial areas. Prevention is to be obtained by the better safeguarding of machinery and the use of goggles in all work where flying fragments are common. There is at present a prejudice amongst workers against goggles. A large part of this is, I believe, due to the atrociously bad fit of the common run of these protectors. Difficulties from sweat and steam there will be always, but if to these there be

added a fit so uncomfortable that the face is hurt and vision obscured it is no wonder that goggles are objected to. Well-fitting goggles, suited to the particular industry, and the extension of the propaganda of the 'Safety First' Association will go far to popularise their use and reduce accidents. Introduction of a bonus scheme into workshops whereby workers gained by the reduction of accidents would go far to stimulate healthy views on the desirability of workers protecting themselves. In some work, such as in coal mines, where accidents are common and sepsis therefrom dangerous, protectors are impossible of use; in such cases first-aid stations, where foreign bodies can be promptly removed and risks of infection averted by irrigation, are needed urgently.'

Thus is concluded a most valuable and all-absorbing paper. We always read with profit and pleasure anything written by Mr. Bishop Harman, because his knowledge and experience are such as to make him an invaluable and reliable authority on the

causes and prevention of blindness.

\$ \$ GUILD OF BLIND GARDENERS

ON June 29th, through the kindness of the National Rose Society, the above Guild held a small exhibition of fruit, flowers, and vegetables at the National Rose Society's Show at the Royal Botanic Garden's, Regent's Park.

The exhibits were all grown by the blind members of the Guild in their own

gardens or allotments.

The President of the National Rose Society, Mr. Darlington, generously gave prizes to the value of £10. These were awarded to:—

1st. Miss Mary Walker, for a group of flowers and plants.

2nd. Mr. A. S. Hinton, for roses.

3rd. Mr. J. H. Lea, for flowers.

1st. Mr. Minchin, for vegetables (large group).

2nd. Mr. F. Marriott, for vegetables (large group).

3rd. Mr. B. Jarvill, for vegetables (large group).

1st. Mr. G. R. Coe, for vegetables (small group).

2nd. Mr. J. H. Lea, for vegetables (small group).

3rd. Mr. Duncombe, for vegetables (small group).

THE ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFICATED BLIND MASSEURS



HE Executive Council of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs has just published the report of a most successful year's work. The main object of this organisation, which came into being two years ago, is that of assisting and securing the recognition and status of certificated blind masseurs and masseures, and of furthering their professional

interests. One of the methods used to secure this object is that of regular advertisement in the leading medical and nursing journals. This is being carried out with the generous aid of St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind, and it is gratifying to note that an increasing number of applications for masseurs and masseuses is directly attributable to such advertisement. Many of the members of the Association have further benefited by the very complete scheme of circularisation of medical men, nursing homes, hospitals, etc., which has been organised. Great assistance has been received by this means in the initial stages of building up a private practice.

Having been appointed agents to the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society and the Eagle Star and British Dominions Insurance Company, the Association has been enabled to provide for special rates of insurance for its members, whilst a special "hand-policy" for masseurs and masseuses has been drawn up.

The total membership of the Association to date numbers 146, eighty-eight of these being blinded soldier masseurs, thirty civilian masseurs and twenty-eight masseuses.

The Third Annual General Meeting of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs was held on Tuesday, July 19th, in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind. The President, Sir Arthur Pearson, attended, with Mr. Percy L. Way in the chair, supported by Captain Ian Fraser and Mr. Cortlandt MacMahon.

In the course of his address, Sir Arthur congratulated the Chairman and the Secretary on their successful record of work for the past year, and spoke in the highest terms of the work which is being done by blinded masseurs and masseuses.

He pointed out that the fact that blinded soldiers were trained as masseurs at St. Dunstan's had given an impetus to the recognition of massage as an important profession for blind persons.

In his opening remarks the Chairman outlined the steady progress which had been accomplished and the many schemes which had been launched; he also drew attention to the gratifying increase in membership and to the important number of additional eminent medical men who had honoured the Association during the past year by becoming Vice-Presidents.

The meeting was brought to a successful close with a very hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for his many efforts on behalf of the Association and its members to further in every way possible their professional interests.

Finally we have pleasure in recording that during the year 1920-21 sixty-five cases were allocated to members by the Secretary of the Association. 1,640 letters were received and 4,336 were issued from the registered offices of the Association.

Matters of professional interest are discussed in a monthly journal printed and despatched by the National Institute for the Blind.

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IT is announced that a Blind Association for Northamptonshire has been formed under the auspices of the Midland Counties Association for the Blind. The new Association will in no way interfere with the work of the Northampton Association, which has been in existence for twenty-five years.

A ST. DUNSTAN'S SALES EXHIBITION

ON July 11th there was opened at the Beaver Hut in the Strand a Sales Exhibition of the work of St. Dunstan's men. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Ian Macpherson, M.P., Minister of Pensions, who paid an eloquent tribute to the efforts of Sir Arthur Pearson, and also made generous recognition of the way in which St. Dunstan's has worked with and helped the Ministry of Pensions. Sir Arthur was present at the opening ceremony, and, together with Mr. Macpherson made a detailed inspection of the exhibition.

The articles on view prove to the full that, thanks to the skilled training provided at the hostel, the blind soldier can hold his own with the sighted workman in many branches of industry. Beautifully finished baskets of every kind, mats and rugs destined for real hard wear, hammocks and nets of every description are on sale, whilst blind joiners are responsible for a wide range of exhibits, which include chairs, stools, trays, step-ladders, bedsteads, etc. Great interest has been evinced in the exhibition of massage appliances used by blind masseurs.

During the first few days of the exhibition some of the men, including blind poultry farmers, carried on the work of their various trades in the hut. This has now been discontinued, but the exhibition itself still remains open. In urging visitors to come and view these exhibits, we cannot do better than repeat Mr. Macpherson's words at the opening ceremony:—

"If any man or woman in this country wishes to purchase these exhibits on the ground of sentiment, let them do it; but we do not wish it—rather we would have them purchase on the ground of worth. The struggle of these men has resulted in producing articles worthy to take their place in the finest markets of the world."



RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY

The following have been added to the Massage Library:—

Treatment of Fractures by Mobilisation and Massage, by J. B. Mennell. In five vols.

Action of the Intrinsic Muscles of the Foot, by G. Murray Levick. (Pocket edition).

Ductless Glands (Halliburton). In two vols. (Pocket edition).

Embryology (Halliburton). In two vols. (Pocket edition).

Gymnastic Treatment for Joint and Muscle Disabilities, by Col. H. E. Deane. In two vols. (Pocket edition).

Surface Anatomy, by C. R. Whittaker. In two vols. (Pocket edition).

Treatment of Sciatica by Galvanic Acupuncture, by E. A. Goulden. (Pocket edition).



Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

JULY, 1921

FICTION

MISCELLANEOUS

*Diagrams to Elementary Geometry, 2 vols.
W. M. Baker and A. A. Bourne
History of Aesthetic, 10 vols
Bramble Bees and others, 5 volsJ. H. Fabre
*English Synonyms, 2 vols
PoemsJohn Hay
*Over the Fireside with Silent Friends, 2 vols.
" Richard King"

Meditations on the Psalms, 3 vols.......R. A. Knox Adventures of Life, 4 vols.......R. W. Mackenna Recollections of an Admiral's Wife, 1903–16, 5 vols. Lady Poore

Barbarian Invasions of Italy, 7 vols.P. Villari

FOREIGN

Cataline, 7 vols.

C. Sallust (with introduction by W. W. Capes)

MUSIC

PIANO—	
Sonata No. 2 (Eroica), Op. 50	E. Macdowell
Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue	
Violin	

Organ—

* Stereotyped Books.

Contents of the July Numbers

Progress.-Editor's Note-The Housewife a Hundred Years Ago-Guests of the Senussi; Life in Hospitable Libya—The Winnowers, by Robert Bridges—Our Prize Competition—Our Past Budgets—Garden Notes (July) - Correspondence - Matters of the Moment-Gibraltar-Foreign Postage for the Blind The Question Box-Chess-Our Home Page-Advertisements.

The Literary Journal.-English Prose-Place Aux Dames-Kitchener's Younger Days-The Marriages of the Princes of Wales, by Professor R. S. Rait (concluded)—Massage Library—National Library for the Blind-Revised Braille Postage Rates-Milton (Poem).

Comrades.—The Father of the Iroquois, 2, from a Legend of the Iroquois Indians (to be continued)-Carpenters and Plasterers, by Margaret Cameron, L.L.A.—The Rescue of Princess Roseleaf—Old Grumpy (Grade I)—The Story of the Sword Excalibur—Puzzles—A Story of Pietro da Cortona-The Spinner.

Santa Lucia. — A Battle of Stags — What are Vitamines? — The Strike Leaders — The Pawn's Count, chapters 30-31 (to be continued), by E. Phillips Oppenheim—The Yangtse Gorges—Insect Dishes— Fighting Fish—Manna Still Falling—The Flounder's Camouflage.

Braille Musical Magazine. - Sacred Music and its Rendering-The Origin and History of Sol-fa Names -Pianola Music, by Edwin Evans-Music by Blind Composers-Music at the National Institute-Dancing Competition—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews; Inset: Piano, "Ten Poetic Fancies," Book I, by H. F. Watling.

The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics .- Postural or so-called Static Deformities (to be continued)-Register of Members, 1921-2-Economy and Public Health-Official Notices.

School Magazine. - A Legend of Reading Abbey, by C. Macfarlane (to be continued)—Spinners of Silk, by C. Mactariane (to be continued)—Spinners of Silk, by Waddingham Seers—The Helicopter—Queries—Sunspots—William of Wykeham—Biography in Brief: Sir Jonathan Trelawny (1650–1721)—The Amazon—The Song of the Western Men (Poem), by Robert Hawker—The Curtain Champion—Three Derivations-Struggle in the Wilds.

The Hampstead.—The Fond Adventurers, by A. M. Burrage-The Dark Backward, by L. G. Beeston-Best Stories.

Channels of Blessing (A Bi-monthly Magazine) -To Our Readers-The Next Step-The Flight into the Wilderness—Answers to Questions—Our Letter to India—The Word Opened Day by Day—Another Conqueror - The Master - Notes by the Way-Prayer-Intercession-With Christ in the School of Prayer (continued).

The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Luck Penny (continued)—Strange but True—Pit Boys' Big Chances—No Strike There—Pigeon Post.

Nuggets .- One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mine of the world's interesting treasureheaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

HOOLE BANK, CHESTER. This beautiful residence standing in its own grounds twentythree acres in extent, has recently been opened as a Guest House for educated and refined blind folk in normal health and reduced circumstances. It is proposed to receive a few paying guests for holidays at £2 2s. per week each. Full particulars from the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

CITY OF NOTTINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Colville Street Blind and Defective Sighted Children School.—WANTED a qualified sighted Head Mistress. Must be Certificated and holding special qualifications in accordance with Board of Education regulations, and able to teach the Braille system. Also Assistant Mistress, Sighted, Certificated Grade, qualified to teach Handwork and Braille. Salary in accordance with Grade III of the Burnham Scale. Forms of application may be obtained from the Clerk, Education Offices, South Parade, Nottingham, on receipt of a stamped and directed wrapper, and should be returned not later than August 23rd.

The Secretary of The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 15 Tufton Street, Westminster, announces that he is willing to send Mission literature in Braille to any person who wishes to have the same.

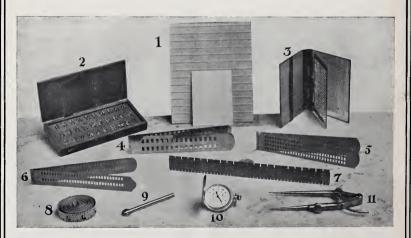
The After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind would be glad to hear from people who could offer good homes in private families to blind-deaf persons of both sexes, at a nominal charge. Anyone who is able to offer this, should apply to:-THE SUPERINTENDENT, "After-Care Department, National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.1.

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



GAMES FOR THE BLIND.—Draughts, Russian Fives, Chess, Chess and Draughts Outfit, Cheery Families, Bridge and Whist Cards, Patience Cards.



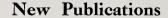
APPARATUS FOR THE BLIND.—1 Correspondence Tablets; 2 Braillette Board; 3 Pocket Postcard Writing-Frame; 4 Two-lined Pocket-guide for Giant Dots; 5 Four-lined Pocket Frame: 6 Two-lined interlining Pocket Guide; 7 Brass Foot Rule; 8 Tape Measure; 9 Spur-wheel; 10 Braille Watch; 11 Compasses.



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND





THE following publications are subject to a discount of seventy-five per cent. for readers who are resident in the British Isles, and to a discount of fifty per cent. for residents in the British Colonies and Dependencies.

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The BEACON A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. V.—No. 57.

SEPTEMBER, 1921.

PRICE 3D.

BLIND PERSONS ACT



OCAL authorities are now getting to grips with the Blind Persons Act of last year. The Act provides old age pensions for blind persons overfifty years of age, and the local authorities must make arrangements for promoting the welfare of the blind ordinarily resident in their area. In February last local authorities were circularised by the Ministry of Health that they

should continue their preparations of schemes for submission within the period laid down by the Statute. It was added that the Minister would consider the whole situation. from the point of view of finance, when in presence of the schemes. Further, it was made plain that he would find it difficult to sanction expenditure on new buildings. "Much may be done," it was added, "by the proper utilisation of existing facilities and buildings, and every inducement should be given to the continuance of voluntary effort." In Cornwall, a relatively poor county, we find a scheme being approved. There are about 485 blind persons in Cornwall, 341 being over 50 years of age. In Cornwall there are many accidental cases, chiefly explosions, being 23.7 per cent., as compared with 12.3 per cent. for England and Wales. Sixty-four are blind from either mine or quarry accidents. At least 46 per cent. are unemployable. Only 77 are registered as being in employment. The South Devon and Cornwall Institution is recognised by the Board of Education as a training centre for the adult blind, and it is probable that this institution will be able to undertake most of the work required by the Act in Plymouth, Cornwall and that part of Devon south of Newton Abbot. The scheme provides for children under school age, the education of children and adults in conjunction with the local education authority, the employment of trained blind persons in workshops, home employment, home teaching schemes, utilising the Devonport and Western Counties' Institution of the Blind as a home for the care and maintenance of adult blind persons incapable of work and in need of such provision, and making provision for aged, infirm, and unemployable blind persons. The estimated cost to the rates for the first year was placed at between £500 and £700.

In the far north we find the Edinburgh Town Council recommending a request to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (who happens to be an Edinburgh advocate) asking the suspension of the Act, on the grounds that it involved handling the whole of the blind in the east of Scotland area. It was apparently felt that it would not do for Edinburgh to be the only Council to desire to stand out from the Act, and ultimately some sort of finding was reached by which the Treasury will be notified that the Council will carry on in the interval and "make some amicable adjustment, having in the back of their mind that the blind should be cared for." Progressive Glasgow is sending a small deputation to visit and inspect certain institutions in England. One of the Corporation stated that in Glasgow there were registered over 1,400 blind persons, and in Lanarkshire, including Glasgow, about 1,513 altogether. While the Act compelled them to make provision for those who were blind at the moment, as far as they could see the indications were that blindness would gradually become less, owing to the fact that ophthalmia neonatorum was now a compulsorily notifiable disease. Many of the people who were now blind had contracted it through that disease, and he was hopeful that in future it would almost entirely disappear.

In Hull the Special Committee, on hearing that the scheme would cost £2.800, deferred consideration. For blind children under five years of age supervision is at present given by the health visitors of the Corporation, and it is proposed to continue this service. For cases where the home surroundings are unsatisfactory it was considered that, having regard to the number likely to be dealt with. the existing agency, the National Institute for the Blind, which maintains a home for blind babies, would be sufficient to meet requirements. Provision for the education and training of blind children over five and under sixteen years of age is to be made by the Education Authority. The number of blind persons in Hull at present is 265. The education and training of those over sixteen years of age is provided by the Hull and East Riding Institute for the Blind, and the Corporation do not propose to supersede this institution. They propose to help the Institute, but in no case to duplicate or take over directly the work that the Institute is now doing. The Institute provides workshops and hostel, and trains the blind in various useful trades, carries on welfare work, and distributes annually a considerable sum in relief by weekly payments to indigent blind. To render assistance to the Institute the scheme proposes a payment of 5d. per hour to all workers employed in the workshops in augmentation of any wages paid by the Institute, reducing the amount of any capitation grant received by the Institute in respect of such employment. It also proposes to be responsible to the extent of £2 per week for the cost of a home teacher; to provide a sales shop to enable the Institute to dispose of articles manufactured in the workshops; and to make a contribution towards the capital expenditure of the Institute in the provision of new workshops, hostels, etc.

Local Government Journal.

A PRIZE IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

M. R. W. EDMONDS and Miss S. Edmonds, of Wiscombe Park, Colyton, have founded a prize in ophthalmology in memory of their brother, Nicholas Gifford Edmonds, Lieutenant, 2nd Black Watch, who fell at Magersfontein on December 11th. 1899. The prize is £100, and is awarded every two years for the best essay on a subject dealing with ophthalmology and involving original work. The competition is open to all British subjects holding the medical qualification. Subject to certain legal regulations the management of the prize will be in the hands of a committee nominated biennially by the Medical Board of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, who will select the subject of the essay and elect two examiners. The winner of the prize will have the option of giving a lecture on the subject at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital. The Middlemore prize, awarded triennially, and run on very similar lines, has rendered valuable service to ophthalmology, and many of the prize essays remain as standard works. "It may certainly be expected," says the Lancet, "that this generous gift awarded biennially will also act as a strong stimulus to original work. There cannot be too many such incentives to break away from routine in professional life, and to stimulate initiative; many men have originality and power of investigation, but from lack of stimulus do not settle down to any definite line of research. The setting of a concrete subject is often all that is required to fire a man to carry out a valuable piece of work. By indicating the subject of the essay two years before the award ample time is afforded for thorough observation, carrying out experiments and careful compilation. Mr. and Miss Edmonds have placed the medical profession under a deep obligation by their intelligent liberality. Their wish in founding the prize is that suffering may be alleviated, and it may be confidently anticipated that this end will be attained."

WE note with interest that at the Esperanto Congress, which was held at Prague last month, a concert was given entirely by blind Esperantists. A correspondent to the Westminster Gazette writes that a blind Esperantist told him Esperanto had been the joy of her life; she felt she had friends everywhere, and a large field of literature at her disposal.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND



HE Report of the National Institute for the Blind for the year ended March 31st has now been published and forms an interesting record of work undertaken for sightless persons of all ages. In a brief survey of this report we will begin with the babies handicapped by blindness from their earliest days. We find that during the year under review "Sunshine

House," the Blind Babies' Home at Chorley Wood, has been full at all times, the number of cases on the waiting list up to March 31st having been thirty-five. We note with interest that as a result of the training at this Home many children who at the specified age of five years passed on to the certified schools for the blind have there attained higher places than have those children who have not experienced the advantages of "Sunshine House" training.

As regards the higher education of the blind, during the year the sum of £4,957 was allocated for scholarships and improvements to Worcester College for Blind Boys, where youths are prepared for professions such as Holy Orders, law, music, teaching, secretarial work, etc.

From the subject of higher education we naturally turn to that of books, and find that during the period under review there were issued by the Institute the following number of publications:—

BRAILLE	P	UBL	CAT	IONS	:

Literature:	Bound volumes		19,508
	Book pamphlets		13,792
	Magazines		72,212
	Instruction cards		1,000
	Newspapers		116,476
Music:	Bound volumes		2,897
	Pieces of music		24,410
Braille Boo	k plates produced:		
	Literature (include	ling	

newspapers 1 and magazines)... ... 33,737 Music 3,219

MOON PUBLICATIONS: Bound volumes ... 8,273 Pamphlets, magazines,

etc. 14,187

Moon Book Plates produced ... 13,762

The material for the Braille volumes is supplied by the Institute's Editorial Department, which is also responsible for the issue of fourteen Braille magazines and newspapers, one monthly letterpress magazine relating to the welfare of the blind. and for the matter contained in the numerous booklets and pamphlets which deal with the work of the Institute. It should be mentioned that during the year under review 8,279 Braille and Moon volumes were supplied free to the National Library for the Blind. (including the Manchester Branch). Books of an educational and special character are provided by the Manuscript Department. During the year this department was responsible for the production of 1,428 volumes.

The Design Department produces all maps and diagrams required for Braille volumes. During the twelve months in question 838 plates have been embossed, whilst the department has also been engaged in designing educational apparatus and making various models for use in schools. The Inventions and Research Committee has during the past year standardised Braille characters for use in books issued by the Institute; it has further examined many ideas for enabling blind people to write by means of pen or pencil, and has dealt extensively with games and pastimes, tools and apparatus for the blind. A most important field of the Committee's operations was the careful testing and examination of various methods which have of late been devised whereby the blind may acquire unaided knowledge from books by the sense of hearing instead of by that of touch.

Special attention is given to the subject of music at the National Institute for the Blind. One of the outstanding productions of the music department during the year was the National Institute's Edition of the works of British Blind Composers in ink-print staff notation. We further note that the Braille Music Notation has recently undergone great developments at the hands of a committee of experts appointed by the National Institute for the Blind.

Turning to the Massage Branch of the National Institute for the Blind, we find that since the opening of the school in 1915, 139 students have been trained for the Massage Examination of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics and all sucsuccessfully qualified; 41 students have passed the Special Remedial Exercises Examination. and 94 successfully qualified in the Medical Electricity Examination inaugurated by St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind. During the past year posts have been obtained through the After-Care Section of the department for a considerable number of masseurs and masseuses, and assistance given to enable them to start in private practice.

The Home Teaching Branch reports a satisfactory year's work. A total of 74,075 visits was paid to 5,797 blind folk by 48 teachers and one sighted teacher, whilst 53,646 books were distributed by the teachers, 489 pupils were taught to read Braille and Moon, and 11 pupils Braille Music Notation, and instruction was given in a variety of other subjects.

The Blind Musicians' Concert Party, working on behalf of St. Dunstan's Hostel, has toured the country and given a total of 295 concerts during the year, the proceeds

amounting to £16,371.

The after-care of blind civilians continues to be one of the most important spheres of the work of the National Institute for the Blind. During the past year the number of new cases dealt with was 1,037, thus placing on the register, inclusive of last years's total, 6,004 blind persons. During the year under review a sum of £14,451 has been distributed in relief to necessitous cases. Gifts to the value of £646 have been provided, and dental and surgical requisites supplied to thirty-seven people.

This Department is also responsible for 143 persons who are undergoing training in industrial and professional occupations, and fees on account of this training have been paid to approved institutions for the blind amounting to £4,361. The number of visits

paid during the year to blind persons in their own homes by the visitors of this Department was 923. The Institute employs 296 blind workers, the total amount of salaries and wages paid to them during the financial year amounting to £33,952, whilst allowances to guides amounted to £4,047.

A recent addition to the Institute's Showroom which contains for sale a number of games and apparatus for the blind, is an Information Bureau, which now contains the record of more than 1,200 organisations for the blind throughout the world.

Further activities during the period under review include the opening of Hoole Bank, Chester, as a guest-house for blind men and women over fifty years of age, and the taking over by the Institute of the Clifton Home for Blind Women. A similar Home for Blind Women is also established at Brighton. The Women's Hostel at 40 Langham Street has accommodation for 47 blind girls and forms a centre, within easy distance of their place of work, for the girl members of the blind staff of the Institute. In conclusion we may mention the Institute's Welfare Department which has rendered First-Aid to 586 people. Entertainments have been provided by the Debating Society and Social Sections of the Sports Club, whilst rambles in the country take place on Saturday afternoons during the summer.

In addition to the direct work mentioned above the National Institute for the Blind gives material assistance to institutions working in aid of the blind in all parts of the country, grants to the extent of £55,302 having been allocated to such institutions during the twelve months under review.

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BLIND BOY'S NEWS BY WIRELESS

A BLIND boy of Worcester College is keeping in touch with the world's news by wireless.

He lost his sight two years ago at the age of 15, and at that time was keenly interested in wireless. Every effort was made by the staff of the college to keep him occupied with his hobby, and a special wireless installation was erected on the top of the building.



WE should be as careful of our words as of our actions, and as far from speaking ill as of doing ill. Cicero.

MUSIC BY BLIND COMPOSERS

PIANOFORTE—Frederick W. Priest, "Rondo Scherzando in B flat," 2s.; Alfred J. Thompson, "Five Lyric Pieces" 3s.; William Wolstenholme, "Noel," 2s. Organ—Horace F. Watling, "Minuet Antique," 2s. Vocal—William Wolstenholme, "Echo" (Christina Rossetti) D to F, 2s. (Published by Ryalls & Jones, 107 Grange Road, Birkenhead).



RITING in the July number of The Music Student, Mr. Ernest Fowles says:—

"In a covering letter to me, the Music Publications Adviser of the National Institute for the Blind observes:—'We do not ask for any sympathy simply because of blindness and suffering. All we ask is that musicians should see what these men are doing as

what these men are doing as musicians, and judge them accordingly and help them, if worthy.' I am not at all sure that Mr. Edward Watson will approve of even so small a quotation from his deeply interesting though private letter to me; nevertheless, I would that it could be printed in extenso so that a knowledge of the wonderful work now being done for the blind musician could be brought home to every reader of The Music Student.

"It is manifest that the circulation of this music must, in the first place, depend upon the sympathetic co-operation of musicians, secondly, that this co-operation can be looked for only if the music be such as to command esteem upon the ground of artistic merit. In the latter respect, there can be no ultimate difference between the work of the composer who has the use of his eyes and that of the composer to whom the faculty of sight is denied. The last tribunal of judgment will be, and must always be, the same for both.

"One would think that great composers ought to spring readily and naturally from the ranks of the blind. Such have the gifts of concentration and memory. Their very detachment would seem to be an incentive to creative effort. As a matter of fact, although the art is probably one of the greatest of all compensations to the blind, the gift of making great music has not been generally theirs. One is inclined to wonder whether, in the

past, the necessity to communicate impressions by the physical touch of the keyboard has not been an unrealized deterrent. To compose directly at the instrument is, except in the case of a very few rare souls, to fall a prev to the conventional in harmony. structure and general idea. Since the blind are presumed to possess the faculty of memory in a marked degree, it should surely lie within their power so to mentalize their conceptions that each part of a composition becomes a living mental reality before the fingers are allowed to touch the keys. The process must be exceedingly difficult, it is true. The man with sight can note down his ideas as they arise and make use of but a fraction of his powers of pure memory. It must be the greatest temptation to the blind continually to recur to the keyboard during the act of composition. There need be no temptation of the kind to the man of sight; and herein may perhaps lie the vital difference between him and his less fortunate

"Maybe my reasoning is at fault. Nevertheless, I do feel that, in at least three of these compositions, the law of previous mental grasp is abundantly illustrated. In Wolstenholme's 'Echo,' in Watling's 'Minuet Antique,' and in Priest's 'Rondo Scherzando,' there can be but little doubt that the ideas as well as the general management of the ideas proceed from minds which are able to 'hold' musical thought and which relegate the act of physical expression to the mere reproduction of music which is already a complete mental experience. In other words, these pieces are the offspring of distinct musicianship.

"Still, all the music is worthy of being read by musicians. It is, in every case, of a strictly moderate standard of difficulty. Is it not then the duty of teachers generally to make themselves acquainted with this new and welcome departure? Mr. Watson has told us that no appeal to mere sympathy is desired; but we can join with him heartily in the wish that this courageous and altogether opportune effort may have the success that its originators so emphatically deserve."

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UNIQUE in the history of Parliaments is the action just taken by the Legislature of the State of Connecticut, U.S.A., in presenting a vote of thanks and a gold watch to a five-year-old child.

Joseph Charles Ayer, son of the Rev. Edward P. Ayer, is the recipient of the honour. The clergyman, who is chaplain of the Legislature, is blind, and lives in

Brantford, a townthirty-five miles distant from Hartford, capital of the State.

Every day during the session just closed the boy escorted his sightless father seventy miles to and from the Parliament House and his home, so that the chaplaindid not miss a single sitting. All the mem-



INTERIOR OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND EXHIBITION TENT, LEICESTERSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SHOW

bers became fond of the little lad, and the proposal to recognise officially his devotion was adopted with enthusiasm.

Daily Chronicle.

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AT the recent Massage and Remedial Exercises Examinations of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, held in June-July, 1921, the following blind candidates trained at the N. I. B. School of Massage, successfully qualified:—

Massage: A. A. Biggs, C. J. Fawcett, L. Green, L. Hagman, J. Ingram, E. W. Jarman, A. S. Kelly, P. J. Sparkes, W. Strachan, G. F. Taylor and P. K. Trethewey.

Swedish Remedial Exercises: A. Cartwright, A. Cohen, L. Hagman, J. Ingram, F. Jackson, E. W. Jarman, A. S. Kelly and P. K. Trethewey.

LEICESTERSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SHOW

A FEATURE of great interest at the Leicestershire Agricultural Show this year was the exhibition tent of the National Institute for the Blind. In fact, at many of this year's Agricultural Shows very considerable interest has been taken by the country folk in the exhibits of this Institute. The display of apparatus designed and produced by the Institute for the education and use of the blind, specimens of Braille books, pictures and maps, as well as a display of woodwork, baskets, netting, mats and other articles made by the blind aroused keen admiration. It should be noted that the Institute makes a point of sending to the Agricultural Shows

the articles most needed by farmers, such as net work of all descriptions from pig to strawberry nets, together with fruit baskets and other articles required on the land. A large number of visitors was to be seen at the Institute's marquee at the Leicestershire Show.

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Mr. WALTER BOWEN, 1st S.A. Infantry, of Durban, who was totally blinded in France, has passed his final Bar examination, and been called to the Bar. Mr. Bowen was at Caius College, Cambridge, after passing through St. Dunstan's Hostel.

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WE are informed by the Superintendent of the Mission to the Outdoor Blind for Glasgow and the West of Scotland that arrangements have been made for all the churches in Rothesay and North Bute to be supplied with blind organists at both morning and evening services on Sunday, 11th September. It is hoped in this way to draw the attention of the churches to the existence and the efficiency of blind organists.



W

E have received particulars of an interesting course of lectures to be held in the Autumn by the Graduate School of Education with the co-operation of the Massachusetts Department of Education, Division of the Blind, and the Perkins Institution for the Blind.

Mr. Edward E. Allen, Director of the Perkins Institution for the

Blind and Secretary of the Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind, will conduct the course and and give a majority of the lectures. With Mr. Allen will be associated Mr. Charles B. Hayes, Director of the Division of the Blind, Massachusetts Department of Education. Other students of problems of the blind workers for the blind will give occasional lectures dealing with special topics.

The course is designed to give in a short period a comprehensive survey of work with the blind and the semi-sighted. It will emphasize the problems which arise in the teaching of the blind. The course will meet regularly for lectures and class discussions on Fridays, from 4.30 to 6. Demonstrations will be conducted in institutions in the vicinity of Cambridge on Saturday mornings. The opportunities for observation and practice are ample and valuable. The hours have been arranged to make it possible for teachers, school nurses, public health nurses, social workers. and volunteers, whose interests already include work with the blind, as well as for those wishing to fit themselves for service in this special field, to attend both the lectures and the demonstrations.

Reading will be assigned to accompany the lectures, and reports of the demonstrations and practical exercises will be required for those who wish credit for the course. Perkins Institution has a very complete collection of literature on the blind and this will be open to students in the course. The first meeting of the course will be held on Friday, October 7, and the last on January 27th.

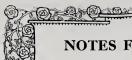
So far as time permits, the following topics, and possibly others, will be covered

by the lectures and reading :

The Blind of the Past and of To-day: Types of Blindness: Sketches of Celebrated Blind People; What the Public Should Know about the Blind; Recreations and Pastimes among Blind People; The Social Status of the Blind; Literature on Blindness and the Blind; The Human Eve and the Causes of Blindness; History and Progress of the Movement for the Prevention of Blindness: Public and Private Provision for the Blind; Home Teaching for the Adult; History of the Education of the Blind: Means and Methods Used in Teaching: Education of the Blind Child-before School Age, in Residential Schools, in Public Day Schools; Psychology of Blindness and of the Blind; The Socialisation of the Blind Child; The Teacher of the Blind; School Curricula; The Teaching of School Subjects; Border-line Pupils: The Deaf-Blind: The Movement for the Separate Teaching of the Semi-Sighted; The Evolution of Embossed Systems of Reading; Libraries of Embossed Books; Vocational Training and Employment of the Blind.

Inquiries concerning the aims, scope, and content of the course should be addressed to Mr. Edward E. Allen, Director of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts.

WE hear from Mr. Allen that, following last year's introductory lecture courses at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, the Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville, Tennesse, is conducting a summer course on the preparation of Teachers of the Blind; in New York City Columbia University is carrying on a summer course for Home Teachers.



NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS



WISS COTTAGE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.—The annual re-union of old pupils of this school took place on the 16th July, when 80 former students re-visited their old school, which has been in existence for over 80 years.

over 80 years.

Mr. Arthur Ball, chairman of the After-Care Committee, welcomed the guests on their arrival. The proceedings opened with a short

concert given by the present pupils, under the direction of Mr. T. G. Osborn, the professor of music, who is himself an old pupil. Mr. Ball next recounted to a keenly interested audience something of the year's work performed by the After-Care Committee, passing to the more general aspect of the work of the school, which had made marked progress since the reunion of a year ago. In two directions in particular had definite steps been taken. First, the opening of the new workshops; and second, the inauguration of a scheme of care and assistance for the scattered blind of London, Middlesex, Essex, Berkshire and Hertfordshire.

R OYAL NORMAL COLLEGE.—The annual prize festival of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Norwood, took place on the 15th July, when the prizes were presented by Lord Ancaster. An excellent programme had been arranged including a demonstration of work in various departments of the college. There were classes in geometry, arithmetic, geography, and nature study, demonstrations in typewriting and Braille shorthand; displays of gymnastics, roller-skating, marching and dancing; an excellent concert, including singing and organ and pianoforte playing.

After the distribution of the prizes the Earl of Ancaster said that no doubt the college was well known to those present, but to him, as a stranger, the work was astonishing. Six hundred former students

were now earning an honourable livelihood, and more than 84 per cent. of the graduates of the college were filling places as organists, teachers of music, pianoforte-tuners, and shorthand writers. Many were acting as teachers of the blind.

Other speakers included Lord Lamington, who paid a warm tribute to the staff, the Mayor of Marylebone, and Mr. Guy M. Campbell, the principal of the College.

WE have received the First Annual Report of the Fawcett Club, Oxford. This club was founded on December 1st, 1920, its aims being:—

1. The encouragement of co-operation

among its members.

2. The acquisition of joint control of the collection of Braille books now in the Public Library.

 The establishment on a definite footing of the "Julia Wickham Memorial Trust," which is designed to increase the volume of classical Braille literature.

The report states that about a dozen books have been added to the library.

The membership of the club has new catalogue has been issued, and can be obtained from the Secretary, C. H. Rogerson, Esq., Brasenose College, Oxford. Books may be obtained from the City Librarian, Braille Department, Brasenose College, Oxford.



ACCORDING to the Annual Report of the Northern Branch of the National Library for the Blind (of which the central branch is at 18 Tufton Street, Westminster) there are now 840 readers; while 48 public libraries and 18 schools, societies, and institutions draw books for their local readers. The total numbers of volumes in the branch collection is now 12,906. Next winter it is hoped to provide the blind with their own evening classes, as far as possible like the ordinary evening class.

THE GEORGE BARKER EXHIBITION

AN Examination will be held at Queen's College, Oxford, on Tuesday, December 6th, 1921, and following days, for the purpose of election to a George Barker Exhibition for the Blind or Those in Danger of Becoming Blind.

The Exhibition is of the annual value of £50, and the Exhibitioner will be required pursue the Study of English Literature and to read for the Final Honours School of English Literature at Oxford.

Candidates must be unmarried, and any person elected to this emolument will forfeit it by marriage.

In order to be able to give our readers some further information on this subject we communicated with the Bursar of Queen's College, who kindly gave us the following details:—

The "George Barker Exhibition" was founded in memory of a blind student of Queen's College, Oxford, by his mother after his death by drowning at Aberystwyth, in Wales. It was a roughish day, and he, independent as ever, would go out as usual for his swim in the sea, which was running high, and either the music of the waves prevented him from hearing the call of his attendant, or the force of the waves tired him and drew him out to sea—the result was that he drowned before help could reach him.

He was a clever, brilliant youth, of great courage, and took (in the early days of the school of English Language and Literature, when it was a rare thing for a man to do it) a First Class in the Final Honours School, and it was expected that a brilliant career in life was open to him as a teacher in the subject.

Owing to the efforts of Miss Heberden, the friend to the blind in Oxford, all the books he required, including the texts, were "Brailled," and there is now a reference library for blind students in this subject which is absolutely up to date, and to which all the requirements of this school are added. It is because of this complete equipment that this school was chosen by Mrs. Barker as the one at which she wished her Exhibitioners to study.

The Exhibition is tenable at College, and there have now been four or five Exhibitioners, all of whom had resided some portion of their time in College, and done well, the most successful being C. L. Wrenn, who also obtained his First Class in the Honours School and is now Professor of English Literature at Pondicherry College, Madras University, India.

The examination for the Exhibition is on quite general school lines, and a candidate may offer almost any subject taught at school. The main heads of the subjects are:

- (1) A General Paper.
- (2) An English Essay.
- (3) Knowledge of two languages other than English: Greek, Latin, French, German, Italian, Spanish.
- (4) Some period of Modern History— English and European, or, alternatively, a period of English Literature and the history of the period offered.

The examination, like all those at Oxford, is of the widest possible scope, so that any candidate can show his own distinctive merit in anything in which he happens to be interested, and get the fullest credit for it.

The candidate holds his Exhibition for four years, if this is necessary owing to his disability, but the final examination for the B.A. Degree is usually taken in three years. The average inclusive cost at Oxford to a careful student who takes trouble to manage his own affairs, is about £210 per annum—i.e., for all costs of board, lodging and tuition, for journeys and pocket money, for books, etc., practically the whole necessary expenses from home to home of three terms a year. The Barker Exhibition of £50 goes to meet this cost, but other sources of help are available, e.g., Gardner's Trust for the Blind, etc.

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BLIND CIVIL SERVANT

THE first blind applicant to pass the Canadian Civil Service examination, Mr. James H. Rawlinson, a Canadian exsoldier, has taken up a position as shorthand clerk at the Canadian Immigration Office in London. Mr. Rawlinson has been trained at St. Dunstan's, where he learnt Braille shorthand and the use of the typewriter. He is the author of a book "Through St. Dunstan's to Light," which was reviewed in these columns some time ago.

WORCESTER COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND



HE Annual Prize-Giving at Worcester College was held on Thursday, July 21st, with Sir Washington Ranger, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors, in the chair.

The Chairman apologised on behalf of Sir Arthur Pearson for the latter's absence, and expressed great satisfaction at the presence of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

Sir Washington also referred to the death of one of the Governors of the College, the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, who, he said, was one of the oldest "old boys," and had always taken a great interest in the College.

Mr. G. C. Brown, Headmaster of the College, stated that they had had a most successful year. The number of pupils was the largest on record, and the work done had been most efficient. He said that with small numbers "grouping" was impossible, but now that the applications for admittance exceeded the vacancies the College was able to admit boys of the right age and make their classes similar to the classes at ordinary schools. The increased efficiency was reflected in the examination results. It was a matter of satisfaction that no less than five boys had passed Oxford Responsions. In comparison with other schools they had come through the test remarkably well, for the old boys who were at the University had worked under a considerable handicap in the way of books. The present term constituted the end of the school year, and six of the boys were leaving. They were all passing on to some further training, four to Oxford, one to an agricultural college and one to further musical training. The question of the further training of blind boys was fraught with some difficulty, and it would become more difficult as the number of boys leaving the College increased. The question of leaving scholarships was one which required much attention.

Having distributed the prizes, the Bishop addressed the meeting. He said that it was not the lot of every county to have in its midst a school which answered the particular purpose of Worcester College. In the old days—before the super-tax—people who had money to give away in charitable bequests were apt to fasten on the blind as persons whom they would like to assist by pensions. He would not say that that kind of action was not good, but unless and until they could say to their blind friends that, in spite of all by which they were handicapped, there was a place in the race of life for them, they were not really tackling the problem at all. They were verily guilty if they did not manage that there should be in our public life opportunities of service for the blind. That was the purpose of the College. It did not fall to the blind any more than it fell to those with eyes "to stand and wait." Let them rise and be active and take their part. In our day we could not be content merely to "stand and wait." There were great forces which called to us to take our part; there were great crimes still prevalent which called to us with no uncertain voice to denounce and reject, and, if need be, to suppress with the firmest vigour.

The Chairman then called upon Lord Cobham to move a vote of thanks to the Bishop. This was seconded by Mr. Mowatt, Secretary of the Governing Body of the College.

The Sixth Annual Regatta of Worcester College was held on the 22nd and 23rd of July. The chief event on the first day was the race for the Ranger Cup, given by Sir Washington Ranger, for which there was a keen contest between the College Second Four (holders of the Cup) and a crew of Old Boys. The College won by a length. Each crew had a sighted cox. In a race between the College First Four and the

Eiresians, a Thames club, consisting of partly blind and partly sighted members, the

Eiresians won easily.

On the second day the wind blew up stream, and made the water choppy, and the conditions for the blind oarsmen were not wholly favourable, but they all showed great eagerness and considerable skill. Single and double sculling events for pupils of the College evoked rare enthusiasm. Double scullers were coxed by women and single scullers by comrades who are not quite blind.

In the juniors' single sculling A. Barry came out an easy winner. In the senior single sculling R. H. Miles, of the College, beat J. F. Mowatt, of the Old Boys, by two lengths. A. Ballard beat P. S. Sumner by a length and a quarter in the single sculling for St. Dunstan's men, but in the double sculling the St. Dunstan's pair were beaten by the College.

AT a recent meeting of the Governors of Worcester College Mr. P. M. Evans, M.A., LL.D., was elected a Governor in place of the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, deceased,

THE Rev. G. M. Llewellyn, M.A., B.D., vicar of Llandough, Vale of Glamorgan, who is blind, has obtained the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the University of Dublin.

"MEN OF THE DAY"

WE have been greatly interested in the first copy of a result. entitled Men of the Day. This magazine contains very fine illustrations of eminent men of the day, as well as interesting accounts of their lives and work. Portraits of H.M. The King and members of the Royal Household are followed by those of representatives of the political world, of the Army and the Navy, of science and of sport, and interesting essays on financial, social, industrial, scientific and kindred subjects, The latter part of this number is devoted to a survey of the work of Sir Robert Jardine, well known as the "Ambassador of Sport."

A page of the magazine is devoted to an article entitled "The Message of St. Dunstan's," together with a photograph of Sir Arthur Pearson and one of the Basketry Workshop at St. Dunstan's.

_____ FIFTY YEARS WITH THE

AST June the Aberdeen Asylum for the Blind paid a tribute to its manager, Mr. John Keir, J.P., F.E.I.S., on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his connection with that institution. Mr. and Mrs. Keir were entertained at a complimentary dinner in the Palace Hotel by the Governors of the Asylum and other friends, and a handsome memento of his jubilee was presented to the

guest of the evening.

Mr. Keir is a notable example of the triumph of Scottish grit and capability over a grave physical handicap. The son of the village blacksmith at Strathdon, he lost his sight at the age of four, when one eye was pierced by a splinter of iron off the stock of a plough in his father's smithy, the sight of the remaining eve failing shortly afterwards. John was an intelligent lad, and is said to have been a great conversationalist at the age of twelve. He was made foreman of the basket-making department at the Asylum, and four years ago he was unanimously appointed manager.

Although his present responsibilities prevent him from taking an active part in local affairs. Mr. Keir was for nearly thirty years a prominent figure in the public life of the city. It was probably as president of the Trades Council that his administrative ability and his sound grip of business affairs attracted attention. In the work of the School Board he found another outlet for his energies. He has a remarkable understanding of financial affairs, and has also done much useful work for educational and social progress. The good wishes for his welfare which were expressed at the entertainment given in his honour will be cordially endorsed by his many well-wishers and friends.

A READING competition will be held at the Northern Branch of the National Library for the Blind early in the autumn. Full particulars may be obtained on application to Miss C. M. Bellhouse, 5 St. John Street, Manchester.

WE enjoy ourselves only in our work, our doing; and our best doing is our best enjoyment. Iacobi.

BLIND WORKERS IN GERMANY

THE Swiss Blindenbote of the 30th June reports a visit to Switzerland from Mr. Niepel, the director of the Prussian Union for testing possibilities of work in the industrial world. In the course of a lecture delivered to members of the Swiss Union of the Blind, Mr. Niepel gave a summary of the work which is being done in the blind world in Germany.

He said that the problem of providing work for the blind in Germany was dealt with mainly by three organisations, firstly that of the State, secondly that of Private Intervention, thirdly by the Institutions for the Blind. Upon the State falls the duty of taking hygienic measures for the prevention of eye-diseases and blindness and of enlightening the public on this subject. In Germany the State is responsible for the education of the young, and it also provides education for blind children in specialised schools for the blind. Private care comes into play before the child is of school age. Advice is given to the parents, and efforts are made to place the child in a public Kindergarten. After training, the blind person is helped in every possible way. He is provided with materials for his work, and money is advanced where necessary. Those who are less independent are cared for in homes and assisted financially. The societies for the care of the blind foster the independence of their members by creating new fields of work and by encouraging social intercourse. By every form of propaganda they endeavour to enlist the sympathies of the public in the care of the blind.

An interesting feature of Mr. Niepel's lecture was provided by a series of films dealing with various branches of work at an institute for the blind. By word and picture the lecturer portrayed the basket and brushmaker, the rug-weaver, the piano-tuner, the masseur and the typist at work. By means of further pictures, of which a number had been taken at the Siemens-Schuckert factory, the lecturer introduced his audience to new fields of work for the blind. Blind persons were to be seen folding cardboard boxes, packing safety stoppers into boxes, covering electric wires, and so forth. Apparently the blind workers prefer the more complicated

forms of work, such as work at the turninglathe and at the boring-machine. Blind men were to be seen manipulating two semiautomatic machines at one and the same time -surely a most praiseworthy achievement. The work is accomplished with infinite skill, and the audience could hardly conceive that the various tasks were being performed by blind people until they became aware of the safety guards attached to the machinery. The last pictures of the series depicted a blind typist taking down dictation from a talking-machine, a piano-tuner and a bookkeeper at work. A great many blind typists are being employed in Government offices in Berlin with very satisfactory results.

ED A CMENIT

A FRAGMENT DESIDE an ivied wall to-night alone I

D stand, The tall trees sweetly converse in the gentle

breeze;
A thousand fragrant memories wake in this

fair spot
And weave again rich dreams of gossamer
and gold.

The happy rural echoes I was wont to hear, Vibrant rich melodies no art can imitate,

These old-world greetings wake a once ecstatic joy,

And life is sweetened by such fond remembrances.

Still ling'ring 'midst these old familiar scenes, I strive

To face the stolid facts of life, to estimate
The chances I have missed—the prize I might

have gained;—
Surely 'tis not for this alone man strives
to live.

When I look out upon the world of men and count

The many things which I enjoy and others lack.

I thank my God for gifts of books and precious friends,—

For that real wealth, the strength to earn my daily bread.

Ben Purse.

18th July, 1921.

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LIFE is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, in which smiles and kindness, and small obligations, given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort. Sir H. Davy.

BIOGRAPHIES OF BLIND MEN AND WOMEN

BIOGRAPHIES OF BLIND MEN AND WOMEN GEORGE ALEXANDER MACFARREN

UR biography to-day is that of his Ove

the composer and writer, George Alexander Macfarren, who was born in London in the year 1813, four years after the death of Haydn and the birth of Mendelssohn. He was the son

of George Macfarren, "dancingmaster, dramatic author, journalist." and himself "by way of being a musician. George Macfarren junior was sent to Dr. Nicholas' school at Ealing, an establishment where Cardinal Newman and Professor Huxley were educated. As a child he was extremely delicate, and in 1823 was removed from school in order to have his eyesight attended to by an oculist. He received his first musical edu-

cation from his father.

and in 1827 was

placed under Charles Lucas, then a student in the recently instituted Royal Academy of Music, with whom he continued his studies until in 1829 he himself entered the Academy. Here his masters were Thomas Haydon, William Henry Holmes for pianoforte, and Cipriani Potter for composition, and one Smithers for trombone, an instrument which he undertook as a second study in accordance with the Academy rules. Among his fellow students was William Sterndale Bennett. In 1830 his first important orchestral work, a symphony in C, was produced at an Academy concert, and in the following year

his Overture in D was performed at the opening of the Queen's Theatre in Tottenham Street under his father's management. This was followed by numerous overtures, but the orchestral work by which he is perhaps best known is that of

best known is that of "ChevyChase," written as a prelude to a play by J. R. Planché, and completed in a single night. This work was the means of introducing Macfarren to continental audiences, and was subsequently produced by Mendelssohn at one of the Leipzig Gewandhaus concerts.

On leaving the Royal Academy in 1836 Macfarren became music teacher in a school in the Isle of Man. The following year he was appointed to a professorship of Harmony and Composition at the Royal Academy of Music, and about the same time he wrote the overture to "Romeo

overture to "Romeo and Juliet." In the following year he brought out the "Devil's Opera," probably one of his best known works. About the year 1842 one of the finest of Macfarren's instrumental works was completed: the Symphony in C sharp minor. This was published as a pianoforte duet, arranged by the composer, and dedicated to Mendelssohn. In 1845 Macfarren became conductor at Covent Garden, where under Laurent's management he produced "Antigone" with Mendelssohn's music; his opera "Don Quixote" was produced under Bunn at Drury Lane in 1846, with a libretto by the



GEORGE ALEXANDER MACFARREN

elder Macfarren. His subsequent operas include "Charles II," "Robin Hood," "She Stoops to Conquer," and "Helvellyn."

Macfarren had already made the acquaintance of Dr. Day, and championed Day's System of Harmony, advocating and teaching it at the Royal Academy.* After a discussion on the question of the orthodoxy of this system before a Board which consisted of his colleagues at the Academy, Macfarren resigned his professorship and severed his connection with the Academy rather than abandon a theory which he felt to be sound. He was re-instated in 1851, and permission was accorded to him to teach any system he pleased.

Meanwhile his sight continued to fail, and in 1847 he travelled to New York in the hope of obtaining benefit from the treatment of an oculist in that city. The hope was a vain one, for although the oculist declared that his eyesight had improved, all that his patient could reply was: "I only know that

I can't see any better."

In spite of the blindness, which became total in the year 1865, Macfarren made scarcely a break in the course of his work, although compelled to dictate all his compositions and literary work to an amanuensis. He was made Principal of the Royal Academy of Music in succession to Sterndale Bennett in 1875, and the same year he became Professor of Music in Cambridge University, the degree of Doctor of Music being conferred upon him in the following year.

He now devoted much time to oratorio, his first work of this nature being "St. John the Baptist," produced at the First Bristol Festival; this was followed by "Resurrection," "Joseph," and "King David." Macfarren was the composer of numerous anthems, of which the following are among the best known:—"The Lord is my Shepherd," "A Day in Thy Courts," "Hear me when I Call"; whilst many of our readers are doubtless familiar with his part-songs: "Orpheus with his Lute," "Break, break, break," "The Three Fishers," "Now fie on Love," "Who is Sylvia?" aud many others.

During the last twenty-five years of his life Macfarren became prominent as a lecturer and a public speaker. He delivered lectures of great and lasting value, whilst his theoretical works, such as the "Rudiments of Harmony" and the "Treatise on Counterpoint," form important additions to works of this nature. He was knighted in 1883, and died in London in October, 1887.

In a preface to his biography of Macfarren Mr. H. C. Banister says that he was "free from petty jealousy, ready with sympathetic help for those struggling, kind and patient as a teacher" (this is confirmed by letters from his pupils), "his whole life full of humility and consideration for others." And an appreciative friend and pupil declares that "we who knew him closest feel how much his great sorrow—those fifty years of first twilight, and then total darkness—made his character what it was; that he could never have been the man he was, the friend he was, nor the artist he was, without it."



BRAILLE POSTAGE RATES

AS some doubt still appears to exist among A some blind people concerning the revised postal rates for embossed literature, we refer readers to an article on that subject on page 4 of the July number of The Beacon. In addition it should be noted that packets containing embossed literature must (1) bear on the outside the inscription "Literature for the Blind," and the written or printed name and address of the sender; (2) be posted either without a cover, or in a cover opened at both ends, which can easily be removed for the purpose of examination; (3) not exceed 61 lbs. in weight or 2 feet by 1 foot in dimensions. If any doubt still exists on this subject, further information can be obtained from page 15 of the "Postal Guide," which can be seen at any post office.

"BLIND LITERATURE" FOR PLACES ABROAD

Packets containing papers impressed for the use of the blind sent to any place abroad are accepted up to a maximum weight of 6½d. lbs. The prepaid rate of postage on such packets is:—

				Up to	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
Over	1	lb.	not	exceeding	2 lbs	1d.
,,	2	1bs	. ,,	,,	3 lbs	$1\frac{1}{2}d.$
,,	3	,,	,,	,,	4 lbs	2d.
,,	4	,,	,,	,,	5 lbs	$2\frac{1}{2}d$.
	5				61 lbs	3d.

In all other respects the regulations as regards printed papers apply.

^{*} Dr. Day's System formed the basis of Macfarren's own book on Harmony, of a later and important work by Prout, and of other works on the same subject.

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BLINDNESS AMONGST CHEMICAL WORKERS





T the invitation of the Committee appointed by the Ministry of Health to enquire into Causes and Prevention of Blindness, the Council appointed Sir Robert Robertson and Mr. William Macnab to give evidence with regard to accidents causing blindness or impairment of vision incurred among workers generally and in chemical laboratories of all kinds.

At the request of the Committee, states the Journal of the Institute of Chemistry, Sir Robert Robertson prepared some notes regarding the incidence of blindness through chemical operations. He stated that, although he had controlled at one time over a hundred chemists and physicists, and a like number of assistants engaged on the investigation of explosive substances and the determination of their properties, his experience of over twenty-five years did not point to such work being specially dangerous, provided due precautions were taken.

As to precautions, the quantities of the explosive substance under investigation were kept down to a reasonable minimum, goggles were worn in all circumstances where there was a likelihood of explosion, and the work was entrusted to competent chemists. The goggles were of a specially reinforced type, and were submitted to severe test before use. Operations such as determining the melting point of explosives were carried on behind a glass screen. Special accommodation was provided for the handling and storage of explosive compounds, and all explosives were removed from the laboratory every night, as a precaution against the spontaneous inflammation of unstable substances and the possibility of fire from any cause. For such storage lockers were built, away from the laboratory, into a mound with a front baffle of sleepers.

Work with larger quantities than those handled in the laboratory was conducted behind shields or in specially armoured chambers provided with suitable mechanical contrivances. These precautions required constant supervision and care on the part of those responsible for the work, who were scientific men who had studied the properties of and effects produced by such bodies with which they were working. Much of the work of such scientific men, however, did not involve the handling of sensitive or dangerous bodies and was conducted in laboratories equipped for research in organic chemistry. In the manufacture of explosives large quantities of acids were handled, but although accidents occurred from spillages, the frequency with which operatives escaped injury to the eye was remarkable.

The ordinary risks of a chemist were minimised by his training. Thus, he would have been taught the safe methods for opening a Carius tube which was under pressure. An instance was known of a student losing an eye through looking down a Carius furnace when the glass tube exploded. Again, in carrying out a fusion with caustic potash, some of the contents of the silver capsule was projected into a chemist's face, and involved injury to his eye. The process of diazotising had been known to assume such violence as to be explosive and to damage a student's eye. Generally, in laboratories, there were some risks, but they were small, and were provided against when the laboratories were under control of properly qualified persons.

At the hearing Sir Robert supplemented the above statement, and Mr. Macnab gave evidence from his long experience, in explosives and other industries, during which he had very rarely known a case of blindness arising from accidents either to chemists or operatives. The Registrar, who was in attendance at the hearing, was also questioned as to the prevalence of blindness among chemists. He said that during nearly thirty years with the Institute he had not

known of more than twenty cases among 8,000 or 9,000 chemists.

The Committee appeared to be more especially concerned with the safety of operatives, since chemists were in most circumstances able to protect themselves, and at the conclusion of the hearing asked to see a specimen pair of the goggles referred to by Sir Robert Robertson.

ACROSS THE SAHARA

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RS. ROSITA FORBES, whose exploration of Kufra and Taj, the Senussi headquarters in the Sahara, has made her the centre of so much interest, recently narrated her experiences to St. Dunstaners at the Bungalow, Regent's Park. The men listened spell-bound to the wonderful story told by this dainty little lady of her terrible journey across the waterless desert. In easy conversational tones, which seemed to make the grim recital of suffering and danger all the more startling, Mrs. Forbes said that for twelve days her little party of two men, a half-blind guide, and a boy toiled over wastes of sand so flat that they seemed like a gramophone disc off the edge of which they might fall at any moment, until their feet were bleeding and their gums began to split, and that at length with their bare hands they scraped a hole four feet deep in the sand in order to get the precious water. She recounted many hair-breadth escapes from death. Once she was obliged to make coffee for men who had planned to kill her, and on another occasion she was compelled to eat a sheep's eye in order to please a native sheikh. At Kufra, the desert headquarters of the Senussi, there is a species of red sand; to tread this sand is said to portend disaster to those who leave it. "But I left it very willingly," said Mrs. Forbes. She explained that the Senussi were not a tribe, but resembled a secret society or religious fraternity.

The lecturer received a great ovation at the conclusion of her address, and in a very modest response she said how glad she was to have been able to entertain the men who had given so much for their King and

Empire.

IN connection with the Southwark Flower Show a blind woman, named Mrs. Johnson, of 17 Ripley Buildings, was awarded a special prize for her wonderful display of flowers in the yard.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind

AUGUST, 1921

FICTION

Spoilers of the North, 4 vols	Rex Beach
Jolliest Term on Record, 4 vols	Angela Brazil
Once Aboard the Lugger, 5 vols	.A. S. M. Hutchinson
Book of Princes and Princesses	, 6 vols.
	Mrs. Andrew Lang

	Mrs. Andrew Lang
Veldt Trail, 5 vols	Gertrude Page
Iron Pirate, 4 vols	Max Pemberton
Grannie for Granted, 3 vo	lsMrs. Wemvss

MISCELLANEOUS

On the Art of Writing, 4 vols.

Sir A. T. Quiller-Couch

Sir A. T. Quiller-Couch
(E. W. Austin Memorial Book)
Mind and Work of Bishop King, 3 vols.

B. W. Randolph and J. W. Townroe
Elizabethan Literature, 3 vols. J. M. Robertson
Robert Hugh Benson: Captain in God's Army, 3 vols.
R. J. J. Watt

FOREIGN

GRADE III

Poor Relations, 4 vols...........Compton Mackenzie

ESPERANTO

Vivo de Zamenhof, 2 vols..... E. Privat

* Stereotyped Books



WE have pleasure in recording the fact that Miss Jean Robinson, "Milestones," W. Byfleet, Surrey, who took her B.A. Degree at Oxford in 1920, obtained distinction in the Oxford Diploma of Economics and Political Science in June of this year. Miss Robinson very kindly tells us that she will be pleased to answer questions from women who intend going to Oxford or other Universities. They should communicate with her at the above address.

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"HAVE the blind nought but their eyes wherewith to distinguish those who love them from those who love them not?"

Maeterlinck.

Contents of the August Numbers

School Magazine.—A Legend of Reading Abbey, II by C. Macfarlane (to be continued)—The Story of Words, I (to be continued)—The City of the Bees, by H. Waddingham Seers—Biography in Brief: Washington Irving—The Land of Bashan as it is To-day, by Courthope Todd—Village Life in the Middle Ages—Queries—Higher Education for the Blind—Paracelsus—The Winds that Blow about the World, from My Magazine—Mamble (Poem), by John Drinkwater—Knights of Old and Knights of To-day, by Sir R. Baden-Powell—An Egyprian Treasure.

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Luck Penny (continued)—The Clerkship of the House of Commons—Things we get from Coal—MS. of a Famous Essay—New Publications.

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Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Neggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Neggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mine of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

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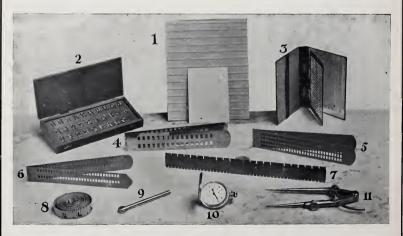
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FILM STUDIO LIGHTS



HE Departmental Committee appointed by the Minister of Health to investigate the causes and prevention of blindness, of which the Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts is Chairman, have just issued an Interim Report. This deals with the injuries to the sight of actors and actresses alleged to be due to the powerful lights used for the production of films in Kinemato-

graph Studios. A question on this subject having been asked in the House of Commons, the Minister of Health referred the matter to the Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness for consideration and report. The committee state that they took evidence as to injuries to the eyes from artistes and others engaged in film production, and from illuminating engineers, film producers and photographers as to the types of lamps used in kinema studios, and the manner of their usage; the Committee further witnessed the actual production of films. Cases were reported of eye trouble following exposure to the intense lights used in the studios. The symptoms described were those of conjunctival inflammation, causing pain and photophobia, and in one of the cases there was stated to be some degree of retinitis, but in all cases the injury was of a transient nature. Evidence was given by the secretary to the Actors' Association to the effect that transient attacks of pain and inflammation of the eyes have of late occurred with some frequency among actors and actresses engaged in film production, and that a number of artistes suffer from bloodshot eyes.

As a result of their enquiries the Committee came to the conclusion that, although, as a result of their occupation, injuries to the eyes of a transient, and in most cases trivial nature, have occurred among kinematograph artistes, there is no evidence of serious or permanent injuries having occurred from this cause.

Evidence of experts on lighting of kinema studios and others is to the effect that:—

 Injuries to the eyes have occurred in kinema studios from the use of unscreened* arc lights.

(2). No injuries have occurred from the use of adequately screened arc or mercurial vapour lamps.

(3). The use of unscreened arc lights in these studios is not necessary.

On this evidence the Committee offer the following observations:—

"(1) and (2). Before the use of these exceptionally powerful unscreened are lights for film production in this country, cases of injuries to the eyes from electric lights in studios were, so far as we have been able to learn, unknown; they certainly must have been very rare. Many artistes, producers, photographers and electric lighting operatives have worked for several years in British kinema studios without ever experiencing the least inconvenience to their eyes.

^{*} The term "Screen" is used to indicate the glass which encloses or covers the lamp and which cuts off the dangerous part of the ultra-violet radiation.

"About May, 1920, new patterns of arc lamps of the searchlight type were imported from America, and have since been used in several British studios. In some instances during the latter months of 1920, the diffusing glass screens with which such lamps are ordinarily provided were not used; such injuries as have been reported to us occurred in these circumstances.

"Unscreened arc lampsare, in our opinion, liable to cause injury by reason of the unimpeded access of ultra-violet rays to the eyes. The danger is increased according to the proximity of the eyes to the lights and

to the duration of the exposure.

"In one studio visited by us goggles were provided for the artistes as a form of protection, but they did notappear to be generally worn, nor, indeed, did their use during the actual production of films appear to be

practicable.

"In certain types of arc lamp commonly used in kinema studios, the cores of the carbons emit irritating vapours composed of suspended particles and products of combustion. Danger might arise from this source, but it is unlikely to be serious unless the lamps were very close to the artistes.

"It is possible that danger might arise from the artistes looking directly at the lights, even if these were properly screened, owing to the intensity of the luminous rays. Permanent damage to sight has been caused, for example, by viewing eclipses of the sun with naked or inadequately protected eyes. There is no evidence that any such injury has been caused in kinema studios, and we are of opinion that suitably enclosed and screened arc lights are not likely to be dangerous apart from culpable temerity on the part of the artistes.

ii (3). The evidence of electric light experts and photographers is to the effect that not only is the use of unscreened are lights unnecessary for the purpose of film production, but that better photographic results can be obtained when filters are used. The screens ordinarily used are of spun glass, which diminishes the glare, and cuts off the greater part of the dangerous ultra-violet

rays.

"The Incorporated Association of Kinematograph Manufacturers, Ltd., an association which comprises practically all the filmproducing firms in this country, is so much impressed by the evidence of danger to the eyes from unscreened arc lights, that it has given its assurance to the Minister of Health that—
'. . . in no case will any member of
the Incorporated Association of Kinematograph Manufacturers, Ltd., from now
onwards, and has been the case for some
weeks past, permit any open-arc lights to
be used in their studios for general illumination without glass filters, and the
Association is willing to be responsible for
its members in that respect, undertaking
to notify to the Ministry any studio among
its members unwilling to abide by this
condition.'

"In consideration of the fact that the producers and photographic experts have definitely stated in evidence that such unscreened arc lights are not necessary for film production, and that the Incorporated Association of Kinematograph Manufacturers, Ltd., have given the above quoted assurance, we are of opinion that their undertaking should be accepted, and that further action

is unnecessary for the present.

"At the same time we realise that the industry is in a state of development. Research is required to determine what types of lamp are best adapted to the purposes of film production. Since new developments may mean new dangers to the artistes, we strongly recommend that this aspect should be made the subject of special investigation, and we are glad to learn from Mr. Leon Gaster that the Illuminating Engineering Society contemplate the formation of a Joint Committee, to include representatives of the kinema industry, lighting experts, ophthalmologists and others interested, for the purpose of studying the whole question."*

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AT a recent meeting of the Governors of the London Hospital the Treasurer, Mr. W. T. Paulin, mentioned the fact that, owing to the need for reduction in expenditure, an automatic telephone system had been introduced, by means of which conversation could be carried on from ward to ward without the medium of the central exchange. This arrangement had enabled them to dispense with the large telephone staff supplied by the Post Office, and in their place had been engaged two blind men from St. Dunstan's, who were carrying out their duties most efficiently.

^{*}Interim Report of the Departmental Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness.— H.M. Stationery Office, Price, 3d. nett.

THE RE-EDUCATION OF THE BLINDED

N interesting lecture concerning the Re-education of the Blinded was recently delivered at Moorfields Hospital by Sir Arnold Lawson, K.B.E., F.R.C.S., Eng., ophthalmic surgeon and lecturer on ophthalmic surgery, Middlesex Hospital, etc. This lecture referred especially to the blinded sailor and soldier.

Sir Arnold started by expatiating upon the wide difference which exists in the problem of educating a child born blind and that of re-educating one blinded after the usual period of education has passed. He explained that the former, broadly speaking, consisted in finding some method by which the lack of one sense could be supplanted by extra training of the remaining senses. A child who had been born blind could be taught to appreciate the shape and characteristics of objects which he had never seen by the handling of models. All the intellectual faculties could be brought into play by side-route methods. Observation and concentration were developed by exercise of hearing, of touch and of memory, whilst the expression of ideas was fairly easily acquired by the blind child of average ability when instructed in reading and writing according to the methods in use for the blind by specially trained masters and mistresses. For those who had already received the education of an ordinary sighted person, re-education after the advent of blindness was a far more complicated matter, and before the war attempts to deal with this problem had been of an unsatisfactory character.

There had been no compulsion to work, and "if the blinded boy or girl preferred to sit by the fire most of the day doing nothing, or to be led about the street playing a penny whistle, or chanting some doleful ditty or hymn, or perhaps turning the handle of a piano-organ, there were few to say nay or to make any special effort to turn him or her

into a useful member of society." Then came the war, and the question of the re-education of the blinded soldiers and sailors became an acute problem—a problem which was to be solved by St. Dunstan's. Sir Arnold proceeded to examine the special difficulties attendant upon methods of re-education, and here we cannot do better than to quote his own words:

"Re-education means in fact commencing all over again on different lines at a period when maturity has been reached and the natural receptiveness and plasticity of the childish intellectual response to training is over. The child who is congenitally blind is much better off than the blinded adult. It cannot miss what it has never experienced. and all its faculties are trained easily enough to supplement what it lacks. In the case of the blinded man, the intellectual senses have been, to a very large extent, dominated by the eyes, and subservient to them. It is true that he has gained a very great deal by the experience won by means of his sight before it was lost; but the loss reacts against him in that he can no longer put his experience to the test of the eyes on which he was accustomed to rely. The blind child has never gained this experience of the eyes, but intuitively seeks to gain experience by other methods which come naturally to it, but which are totally unnatural to the sighted child.

"That is the first great difficulty—re-education on totally new lines—and it becomes of increasing significance according to the patient's age, which is the second difficulty. For as we live and get older each one of us gradually becomes at first fixed in our methods of action and habits of thought, and then gradually less capable of absorbing fresh ideas, and less willing to try to absorb them. Thus we see that the re-education of a blinded person is only possible during a certain period of life. After that time has passed we must be content with an incomplete and increasingly

inefficient result from our efforts. As we say at St. Dunstan's, the man is trainable or untrainable, and the former class should theoretically, though, alas, not practically, embrace all cases blinded up to the age of forty. From the age of forty to about fifty years there may be a certain amount of effective re-education, but the amount gained by the patient is not in proportion to the effort made, and after the age of fifty, with the exception of a few who in the past have been highly intellectual, the re-education resolves itself in most cases into providing the patient with methods by which he may serve to pass the time pleasantly. The learning of Braille is a good instance of this, and it is found practically useless to instruct in this subject when the patient is over forty years of age, though there are exceptions. The patient may master its technicalities at a much later age than forty, but it is rare to find one, who, commencing after this age, becomes sufficiently conversant with it to read Braille with real facility and with genuine pleasure.

"The third difficulty is presented by the patient's individuality, which is a factor of enormous importance. It is very disappointing to try to re-educate a country bumpkin who has successfully resisted efforts to educate him when he had his sight. Such a one has passed the best educational time with his intellectual vision almost entirely subservient to the practical necessities of obtaining sufficient to eat and drink by unskilled labour. Only the simplest forms of re-education are applicable to such a man. although he may have attained manhood but a very short time ago, and even such simple training as may be applicable to his case may be extremely difficult to instil. On the other hand, a man who has received and proportionately absorbed the benefits of a good education in the past, may, under certain conditions, be capable, after he has been blinded, of resuming his usefulness as a citizen to as great or to an even greater extent than that to which he attained before blindness overtook him."

Sir Arnold then went on to say that the re-education of the blind man must of necessity be conducted on individual lines. He called attention to what is indeed one of the greatest difficulties in the educational world, that of catering for the requirements of the individual child where a large number are concerned. If it is not possible satisfactorily to educate every child on the same individual lines, how much more so is this the case in the matter of re-education. "The dominating individual characteristics of a grown man are infinitely more dominating than those of a child, and whereas it is possible to turn away a child from its inclination, it is generally not so possible in an adult." A great difficulty is presented by the mental attitude of resistance of some of the blinded towards attempts at their re-education. Sir Arnold believes that this mental attitude exists for a short period in almost every case as a natural sequence to the first shock occasioned by the loss of sight.

"The sudden plunging of the sighted man into darkness by the havoc of a shellburst or bullet must be, and is, followed by a period of mental depression, often of a most acute character, which persists in many patients for a long period. The shorter this period can be made the happier for the patient, but while it lasts the patient is apt subconsciously to resist any effort to ameliorate his position. The younger the patient the more easily and quickly will he usually react to outside influences to help him, but in the case of people who are blinded in the evening of their lives it is not unusual to find a persistent passive attitude of inability to take interest or to attempt to make the best of circumstances. Of course, when a patient has gradually lost vision by the progress of some insidious disease, the ultimate catastrophe, delayed perhaps for several years, loses the greater part of its horror-the patient has had time to become acclimatised, as it were. It is the sudden or rapid loss of that upon which the beauty and enjoyment of life seem to hang, which causes the persistent melancholy from which so many old people fail to arouse themselves. Believe me, it is a far better thing to lose the sight in the spring or summertime of youth than in the autumn or winter of life. The natural sympathy of the world is for the blighted prospects of youth; all the mighthave-been of life seemingly so utterly destroyed, the future so hopelessly dreary. After all, the elderly or old man has had his time of youth unblasted by blindness-not so many years of life still remain, and though blindness is always hard, he cannot win the same intensity of the world's sympathy as the young blinded man. And yet the world is wrong. For one of the great

blessings of youth is its inability as a rule to look too far ahead. Foresight is largely a matter of experience won by age, and youth is always ready and usually capable of reclaiming and retying the threads of life which have for a time parted and separated him from most of what makes life lovely and pleasant. An old man generally cannot pick up the threads at all; or if he can find them he cannot tie them correctly—he is confined by his experience and his powers of outlook. He cannot start all over again—it is too late to do so even if he were to try. The old man is, in fact, as I have already pointed out, untrainable.

"It was this spirit of youth that was the chief asset in the production of that wonderful cheeriness which so pervaded St. Dunstan's during the war, and so astonished all who went there. The society of comrades similarly maimed helped in a very great measure, but neither the society of comrades nor the sympathy and help of all who worked at St. Dunstan's would have brought that laughter and that brightness if St. Dunstan's had been peopled by old men instead of

boys, as there they mostly were.

"For the purpose of training," the lecturer went on to say, "a man may be defined as blind when his sight is so badthathe is unable to earn an independent livelihood as a sighted man can do. Thus the blind can be divided into three categories or classes: (a) those who have completely lost their sight; (b) those who still retain fragments of vision but no useful sight, their powers being limited to bare light perception, or to some sense of form or movement over the whole or part of their visual fields; and (c) those who still possess some useful sight, vision that enables them to get about without aid and to recognise large objects close at hand, but insufficient to enable them to earn their living as sighted men. This latter class embraces the most difficult cases for training purposes, because it generally happens that a patient cannot be taught to learn without using the weak sight that is still retained and which is thereby very frequently endangered by the instinctive straining set up. Class (a) is the most satisfactory of the three, for those who have completely lost their sight most quickly become resigned and most easily are taught to do without it, and indeed fragmentary vision is of positive harm to many, in that it gives no real comfort but rather tends to confusion and to increase the difficulties. I

have often heard patients say that they were worried by the retention of a little sight in one or two corners of the visual field, and similarly have heard others rejoice when they had lost it. It was well recognised at St. Dunstan's that the completely blind were the easiest to train, and our experience there was that these were the most contented of the patients, and that grumbling and discontent and other little troubles, generally present in any community, seemed chiefly to emanate from those who still retained a little sight."

Sir Arnold showed how greatly the feeling of comradeship had assisted in the re-education of the moral sense of those blinded in the war. The feeling of complete loss of independence is usually followed by the realisation that the sufferer is one of a community where all are experiencing and learning to overcome similar difficulties. The experience of the last six years has shown conclusively that colleges or communities for the blind are the

first essentials in re-education.

There followed a detailed description of the many methods by which the first difficult stage of re-education is simplified at St. Dunstan's. The importance of learning to dress and to eat neatly was alluded to, and the many distractions and amusements provided at the Hostel discussed at length. The lecturer then passed on to the subject of training, which must, he said, be considered from two points of view, (a) that designed to cultivate the intellectual qualities of the blinded man and (b) that intended to provide him with a means of livelihood. The first is provided by instruction in Braille and typewriting, and the difficulties experienced in learning Braille, especially by men over forty years of age, were cited.

As regards the training of the blinded men with a view to earning a livelihood, the lecturer, in alluding to the useful work performed before the war period by workshops where instruction was given to members of the labouring classes in mat, brush and basket-making, and to the instruction given in massage to blind persons of a higher social standing, said that blinded members of the upper and middle classes were inadequately provided with work or occupation:-"A revision of the whole question of occupations suitable for the blind was necessary, and not one of the very many wonderful gains in knowledge and experience acquired by the war has been greater than the vista of

what can be done in the way of training the blind. The question now is not what the blind may be taught, but rather what they cannot be taught, for there seem to be but few heights to which a blinded man, under suitable environment, may not rise, provided he is gifted with the necessary grit and determination to make good." Sir Arnold then referred to the work of Sir Arthur Pearson and to the success which attended his efforts after he had found out that he was, as he himself expressed it, "not disabled, but only inconvenienced." The lecturer proceeded to quote instances of success attained by blinded officers as business men, barristers, singers, poultry-farmers and masseurs. As regards the training of the majority, those of a humbler station in life, the selection of a suitable livelihood for each requires considerable care. For those who have spent their previous lives in manual labour the old trades of brush, mat and basket-making cannot be improved upon, for they are easily acquired, and to these may be added boot repairing. Carpentry and even joinery are also taught at St. Dunstan's. A wise provision at that hostel is the teaching of two trades of the simpler kinds. Thus the boot repairer would also learn how to make mats or baskets, or vice versa. The employment of blind instructors is a sound practice, because no one understands the difficulties of the blind pupil so well as one who has himself experienced them, and thus a certain number of pupils who can attain sufficient proficiency and possess the other qualifications necessary for teaching may obtain a good living in the future by becoming instructors themselves. Alluding once more to massage for the blind, the lecturer called attention to the great success that has attended the massage classes and to the formation of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs. Poultryfarming, pianoforte tuning and telephony are among the successful callings learnt at the hostel. Owing to the fact that many under training have experienced severe head and face injuries, working hours must necessarily be short, and spare time is filled with light occupations such as string-bag making and netting, whilst reading aloud is much enjoyed and card playing forms a favourite occupation.

"When training has been completed, the blinded man has to be launched out into the world to earn his living. Very little difficulty has been experienced with regard to those who have been re-educated in special work such as massage, telephony, etc. These men are able to compete in the world's market on fairly equal terms with the sighted man. especially when there is a substantial pension in the background to help matters along. But in the case of those trained in handicrafts. as most of the St. Dunstan's men have been. the situation is different and bristling with difficulties. The blind handicraftsman cannot possibly compete on equal terms with the sighted. He cannot work so quickly or continue to do so for such long hours. His work is ant to deteriorate in quality unless periodically supervised. Little mistakes creep into his work and pass unrecognised, so that the occasional fault is apt to become habitual unless there is someone to overlook the work and put matters right again. The purchase of raw material in the best and cheapest market and the disposal of manufactured goods to the best advantage require help. For these reasons the blinded handicraftsman on leaving St. Dunstan's is handed over to the After-Care Department, which has done and is doing as much for the blinded of the war as the Hostel itself."

The lecturer proceeded to discuss the question of providing work for the blinded.

"The formation of large workshops for blinded soldiers and sailors being impracticable, it was decided to deal with the matter by settling the men in various localities, where they produced their work at home. This arrangement necessitated (a) the formation of a large central depôt, which is situated in London and (b) the division of the United Kingdom into districts, each under the care of a specially trained and paid inspector. At the central depôt all the business of the After-Care Department is handled. Raw material is bought and stocked, and manufactured goods are stored for disposal. It is also the head-quarters for the financial side, and the general reference centre for all correspondence and all work connected with the welfare of the men. The local inspectors have much to do. Each man, when trained, is settled in his native district, or as near as possible to any locality that he may choose, and it is the business of the inspector of his district to see that he is being comfortably and suitably housed. Once there, he is visited at least once in every six weeks by his inspector, who supervises his work and points out mistakes if necessary. The inspector is also responsible for the supply of material and

for the dispatch of the goods to be disposed of by the central depôt.

"The work is not directly subsidised, and quite rightly so, for with his pension the trained man can earn a very good living; but indirectly a very great deal is done to help each man. The material is supplied at actual cost price, and all expense connected with handling and storing material is charged to the department and is a direct financial loss to it. Thus, the more a man works the more he costs the After-Care Department, and so. indirectly, the man who works most gets most. Then, as regards sale of work, the man is paid by return of post at the highest market rate obtainable at the moment, and no charge is made for the carriage of his goods to London and for storing them. Very often the actual disposal of the goods is much delayed by overstocking, and in the meantime the price may depreciate, so that the department again stands to lose, sometimes very considerably.

"In times of sickness, accidents or business difficulties the department is ready to help. Special care is taken that the patient is well looked after, and, if necessary, money grants are made to help in tiding over times of trouble. When convalescent the patient is sent, free of all expense to himself, to one of four convalescent homes attached to St. Dunstan's. These are situated at Hastings, Brighton, Cheltenham and North Berwick, and the home is prepared to keep him as long as necessary. These homes are also used to provide annual holidays, and every man is entitled to a fortnight's rest yearly at one or other of them."

Other matters touched upon by the lecturer included the problem of the marriage of the blind and the provision for the untrainable blinded soldier and sailor, for whom light occupation only is possible. Lastly, Sir Arnold called attention to the difficulty experienced in providing for the number of men who still possess some useful degree of sight, for whom the fatigue of training would probably incur a total loss of vision. A solution of this problem, he says, is a matter of great difficulty.



IT is not great deeds that make people's lives happy; it is the little kindnesses of daily life.

E. Hadwen.

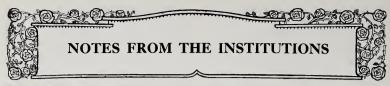
A NEW ORGANISATION FOR THE BLIND

R ECENTLY a meeting was held in London for the purpose of establishing an organisation to be composed mainly of blind workers. After some discussion it was decided that the name of the new society is to be "The National Union of the Professional and Industrial Blind." The society is being registered under the Trade Union Acts of 1871, 1876, 1913. A provisional committee was appointed, and it is anticipated that a national conference will be convened early in October. The constitution has already been drafted, and provisionally adopted.

Members of the provisional committee are as follows:—Chairman, Mr. M. Dodd, B.A., LL.B.; Vice-chairman, A. G. Chapple, M.A.; Secretary, Mr. Ben Purse, F.R.S.A.; Treasurer, Mr. P. T. Mayhew, with Misses Hughes and Cleaver, Messrs. Lewis, Rignall, Cato and Emblen.

In presenting the Annual Report of the Moon Branch of the National Institute for the Blind, the Committee state that during the year under review there were produced:—8,273 bound volumes, 14,187 pamphlets and magazines and 13,762 Moon bookplates.

In view of the fact that the National Institute for the Blind is the only printer of Moon books in the world, these figures constitute the entire world-production of Moon literature during the year in question. We note that the number of Moon bookplates produced during the last twelve months exceeds those produced during the previous fifteen months by nearly 6,000. Attention is called to the publication in Moon type of the Holy Scriptures, which occupies fifty-nine volumes, and is of inestimable benefit to those who become blind in old age. The National Library for the Blind, Tufton Street, Westminster, has a register of 800 readers of Moon volumes. From January, 1920, to March, 1921, the National Institute for the Blind presented, free of all cost, to the National Library, 2,868 volumes. 10 pamphlets and 72 magazines in Moon type. A large number of Moon readers live in the United States of America, and in connection with these the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society has financially assisted the National Institute for the Blind in producing a number of works in which they were specially interested.





HE Annual Report of the Clifton Home for Blind Women has just been issued. This Home was taken over by the National Institute for the Blind in the summer of 1920. Originally founded in 1874, the Home was able to accommodate twelve blind women at a fee of £20 per year and clothing, the stipulation being made that the inmates should be over sixteen

years of age. The Council of the Institute have now established a new regulation age limit of not under forty years, and candidates for admission must be in normal health. Since June, 1920, three women have been admitted and one has left. The oldest inhabitant of the Home has been resident there for forty-five years. Considerable alterations and improvements have been effected by the Institute, and everything is done to provide these necessitous blind women with the comforts and peace of home life.

Since taking over the Home the National Institute has been obliged to increase the fees, which now amount to 15s. per week.

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THE BELFAST ASSOCIATION FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE INDUSTRIOUS BLIND.—The Forty-Ninth Annual Report of this Association is to hand. We note that during the year under review the sales figures reached the large sum of £56,855. In addition to local business, about forty contracts with the Government were carried out. These included 750,000 brushes and many thousands of hampers and baskets for the Post Office and the War Office. The total of wages, bonuses, etc., amounted to £16,249, the actual wages earned having been £8,927, whilst the sum of £7,322 was added in gratuities.

This fine record for the closing complete year of Mr. Hewitt's grand work must be extremely gratifying to him.

EWSBURY, BATLEY AND DISTRICT INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—This Institution, which was carried on privately for several years, was recently taken over by a committee, and in January, 1920, it became an officially recognised agency for the Blind under the Ministry of Health. There are 138 blind persons on the register. During the year under review the Shop Sales, including the value of work done in the Knitting Department, amounted to £1,796. During the year 1920 the committee received the sum of £558 from the National Institute for the Blind. being the balance due in respect of the campaign inaugurated by that Institute. The total share of this institution of the results of the campaign was £2,058.

THE LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—In the recently-issued Report of this Institution the belief is expressed that the 523 names which appear on their register represent the total number of blind persons in the district. Over 500 have during the past year received support from the Institution, while instruction in Braille and the use of the library are free to all. Legacies to the amount of £1,195 were received during the year under review.

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AN innovation in work for the blind in Brooklyn, U.S.A., is the organisation of a brass band class. At present there are seventeen men in the class at the Music School Settlement, who are eagerly studying brass and wood instruments, under the direction of Karl F. Reichel, Louis Moenig, and Adam Shirra.



I REALISE that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.

Nurse Cavell.





may appear somewhat premature to call attention in our October number to the purchase of Christmas gifts for our blind friends. We are, however, desirous of affording colonial and other readers the opportunity of making an early selection from the variety of articles obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind. 224 Great Portland Street, W.1.

Before enumerating these articles we should like to call attention to what constitutes one of the most acceptable gifts to a blind friend, namely, a year's subscription to one of the Braille magazines, of which the rates of subscription are as follows:-

Braille Mail:

8s. 8d. per annum, post free.

Literary Journal:

Inland, 12s. per annum, post free. Abroad, 16s. per annum, post free. Progress:

Inland, 6s. per annum, post free.

Abroad, 8s. per annum, post free. Musical Magazine:

Inland, 8s. per annum, post free. Abroad, 12s. per annum, post free. School Magazine:

Inland, 7s. per annum, post free. 6s. per annum, if six or more copies

are ordered. Abroad, 10s. per annum, post free.

Comrades: Inland, 4s. per annum, post free.

Abroad, 6s. per annum.

Readers should also consult the current catalogue issued by the National Institute for the Blind, in which they will find a very wide selection of books of all descriptions, to suit the tastes of all readers, both adult and juvenile. Attention is once more called to the fact that to the blind residing in the British Isles a discount of 75 per cent. on all books and pamphlets is accorded, whilst those living in the British Colonies and dependencies are entitled to a discount of 50 per cent.

Passing from Braille reading to Braille writing, an extremely useful gift is to be found in the shape of the Stainsby-Wayne Braille writing-machine. This machine, designed to write Braille on both sides of the paper, consists of a Braille board on which the machine is placed; the keys travel from right to left as the Braille is written, and a small bell gives warning when the end of the line is reached. The price is £3, postage extra.

No more useful present could be found for a blind friend than a Braille Waltham Watch, in silver hunter case, with enamel dial, the quarter-hours represented by two small dots, and the hands sufficiently strengthened to meet the requirements of the blind. These watches can be obtained in three grades, price £4 7s. 6d., £5 5s. and

£6 7s. 6d., plus postage.

For less ambitious purchasers there are a variety of games and apparatus, all specially prepared for the "fingers that see," illustrations of which appear on the back page. The prices of some of these are as follows :-

LIST OF	GAME	S & A	PPA	RATU	JS.
					Price*
				Foreign	Home
"New Style" I	Oraughtbo		lding)	15/-	15/-
,, ,,	,,	(F1	at)	8/-	8/-
Draughtsmen				5/-	5/-
"New Style" C					15/6
11 11	11	(Flat)		8/6	8/6
Chessmen				8/6	8/6
Russian Fives				15/-	15/-
"Compact" Che	ess and D	raughts		5/-	5/-
Dominoes "up	to double-	six"			5/6
" "don	ble-six to	double-	nine ''	6/-	6/-
Playing Cards				2/6	2/6
Patience Cards				2/6	2/6
"Holt's" Corre	spondence	Tablet	s	1/-	1/-
Braillette Board				7/6	5/-
Two-lined Pock	et Frame			5/-	2/6
" Gian	t dot Fran	ne		5/-	2/6
Four-lined Pocl				5/-	5/-
Two-lined Pock	et Interlii	ing Fra	me	5/6	3/9
Postcard Frame	in Pocke	t Book-	-Cloth	6/6	5/6
	,,		eather	10/-	10/-

^{*} The difference between the foreign and home prices is due to the fact that the Institute allows a discount to home purchasers, the higher price being the actual price of production.

Tools for the blind shoemaker and the blind pianoforte-tuner are also obtainable.

Last but not least, we beg our friends to consider how greatly a message of hope and cheer gladdens the heart of each one of us—blind and sighted alike—at Christmastide; in so doing we call attention to the Braille monthly calendars, and to a wide selection of Christmas cards with greetings in Braille or Moon, at prices varying from 6d. to 1s. 6d.

AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT

CAN sight be restored by the process of transplanting a normal eye in place of a blind one? Viennese medical circles are at present discussing this question, as the result of a lecture recently delivered in that town, when the claim was made that the experiments carried out have proved that sight can be restored. The discovery was first made by Theodor Koppanyi, a young Hungarian student at the University of Vienna, and Professor Kolmer, of the Physiological Institute, who has supervised the experiments, explained to a correspondent of *The Daity Chronicle* what has been accomplished and what is claimed.

"If has long been known that fish, frogs and other forms of aquatic life have power to change their colour in conformity with their surroundings, but that they lose this power on becoming blind. Experiments were conducted on the lines of observing what happened when a normal eye was transplanted in place of a blind one, and it was found that fish, frogs, etc., recovered the power of adapting themselves to their surroundings, reaction being somewhat slower than in the case of fish with their

original eves.

"To test whether this recovery of the power of adaptability was due to recovered sight, and whether sight itself had been really recovered, the fish were put in a tank and a ray of light passed through the water. Fish and other forms of life on which the experiment was tried reacted to the light in a manner similar to those animals which have normal original sight, avoiding strong light and moving towards the ray of light coming through the darkness. It was also discovered that fish etc. with a transplanted eye recovered the function of eating, which they lose when blind.

"The eyes so transplanted have been mostly from one to another of a similar family, such as from fish to fish, from frog to frog, although in the lower forms of life some variations in the family of animals have been equally successful. Good results have also been obtained from experiments on rats, which are a very high form of life.

"Experiments are to be conducted now with rabbits, and it is hoped that monkeys will also be available. Eyes so transplanted

are said to appear quite normal.

"Professor Kolmer and Professor Pribram, of the Biological Research Institute at Vienna, are working busily at further experiments, but so far what is claimed is this—that experiments with aquatic forms of life have been very successful; with higher forms, such as the rat, it is believed that the rat really sees, and that, through not using stitching, the pupil of the transplanted eye reacts light. This constitutes definite progress over previous experiments."

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FROM Montreal comes the news that Mr. S. R. Hussey has entered upon his duties as Principal of the Montreal School for the Blind. Mr. Hussey has a record of twentyeight years of successful teaching and training of the blind. He was born in Newfoundland, lost his sight at the age of nine, and entered the Halifax School for the Blind at the age of twelve. For twenty-six years he was a member of the staff of this school. In 1919 he was appointed Superintendent of the western division of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, his headquarters being at Winnipeg, where he was in charge of the broom-making, basket and hometeaching departments.

Mr. Hussey is well known throughout America for his activities on behalf of the

blind.

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"Cheerfulness is a great moral tonic. As sunshine brings out the flowers and ripens the fruit, so does cheerfulness—the feeling of freedom and life—develop in us all the seeds of good—all that is best in us."

Avebury.

"To do as much as you can heartily and happily do each day, in a well-determined direction, with a view to far-off results, with present enjoyment of one's work, is the only essentially profitable way." Ruskin.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT



HERE was issued during the month of August the Second Annual Report of the Ministry of Health relating to the year which ended March 31. The Report covers the whole range of the activities of the Department, from housing and town planning to the administration of National Health Insurance, whilst a separate section is devoted to the Welsh Board of Health.

The entire matter is contained in one single volume "with the double purpose of reducing the cost of production and of enlarging the circle of those who may be prepared to buy and read a yearly account of some of those operations of Government which affect most closely their daily lives." The necessity for economy in public expenditure is insisted upon throughout the Report:—

"A new and restricted conception of immediate possibilities has been implanted in all concerned," and whether it be the great health services of the Ministry, the housing of the people, sanitary administration, or the clearing of unhealthy areas, it is recognised that proposals for development and expansion must give way to a rigid economy of public resources, which must further extend to the administration of existing services.

During the year the Ministry has absorbed certain functions of other Government Departments. Work under the Anatomy Acts and duties in relation to mental diseases have been taken over from the Home Office, powers as to water undertakings from the Board of Trade.

Numerous steps have been taken to secure economy in administration. The statistics which Local Authorities are required to furnish for Annual Local Taxation Returns have been considerably curtailed. The eighty-two County Borough Councils will now make only one annual return of nine pages instead of two or more returns of more than fifty

pages. The heavy cost of Borough Extension Inquiries, which falls upon the ratepayer, has been mitigated by the curtailment of the information collected and the restriction of the use of counsel and expert witnesses. Further steps have been taken to secure closer co-operation with voluntary agencies, and authorities have been urged to keep in view the economies which may be effected by their provision of timely financial assistance to efficient voluntary bodies engaged in the same sphere of work.

International Health.—The present spread of cholera westwards shows the vital necessity of some international organisation which can bring swift and simple methods to bear against the attacks of diseases which transcend national boundaries. The assistance of the Council of the League of Nations has already been invoked in assisting Polish health authorities with financial and sanitary measures required to check the spread of typhus in Poland.

Under a heading of "General Health Questions," we learn that besides an unconditional grant of £50,000 from the British Government for combating typhus in Poland, other grants were made by the Dominion of Canada, by France, Spain and other countries, amounting in all to £200,000. The general position with regard to typhus has greatly improved.

Tuberculosis.— The most conspicuous change in public measures for dealing with tuberculosis has been the supervision of sanatorium benefit under the National Health Insurance Acts by arrangements under which local responsibility for treating non-insured as well as insured tuberculous patients rests upon the County and County Borough Councils. Capital grants of £275,609 were paid and loans of £378,320 sanctioned during the year towards the provision of sanatoria and other institutions, and over £900,000 was paid as grant in aid of the cost of maintaining institutions.

Other Infectious Diseases.—The Report outlines in detail the work done during the year in connection with the treatment of venereal disease. The salient feature of the year has been the large increase in the number of attendances at out-patient clinics, which have risen from 488,000 in 1918 to 1,489,000 in 1820. The number of new patients, however, has increased but slightly. On the 31st March, 1921, there were 191 Treatment Centres open compared with 168 on the corresponding date in 1920.

The large number of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria occurring in the year 1920 has already formed the subject of an exhaustive survey in the Report of the Chief Medical Officer, as have also the special characteristics exhibited during the year by such diseases as small-pox, encephalitis lethargica, influenza and plague.

Maternity and Child Welfare .-Maternity and child welfare services have been affected by the need for economy. The extension of the work has been so rapid in recent years, however, that it is suggested that "there is advantage in a halt at the present time for a consideration of the existing position." Great efforts are being made to reduce the cost of these services by encouraging voluntary effort. During 1920-1921 the Maternity and Child Welfare Grant distributed by the Department amounted to 873.850, the number of health visitors at work was increased by 215, and the equivalent of the whole time of 1,617 women was devoted to health visiting. The number of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres increased during the year by 183, and is now 1,780, of which 1,068 are provided by Local Authorities and 712 by voluntary societies. In spite of serious difficulties, accommodation in homes and hospitals for maternity cases has increased during the year by 206 beds in 23 Maternity Homes and Hospitals and 51 beds in 5 observation wards and hospitals for children.

Clean Milk Production.—The production of clean milk receives the first place in the consideration of inspection and supervision of food. The power to issue licenses authorising the use of special designations for milk produced under specially hygienic conditions remains with the Minister of Health. In connection with meat inspection a Departmental Committee is sitting to consider the whole question of the conditions under which animals are slaughtered. Under the Sale of

Food and Drugs Acts, 111,797 samples were purchased for analysis by public analysts.

Other Activities.—The Report deals exhaustively with many other of the activities of the Ministry, such as the general practitioner service under the National Health Insurance Acts, general health questions, including the voluntary hospitals, lunacy, dentistry, etc. It is stated in the chapter devoted to the general practitioner service that of a sum of £8,000,000 which was the total cost of medical benefit for the insured, about £6,700,000 goes in payment to doctors.

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MR. H. C. THEOBALD, K.C., who is now to be the only Master in Lunacy, is a man of nearly seventy years of age. He was at one time an authority at the Chancery Bar, and also an art expert, until unfortunately he was attacked by blindness. This in no way hinders his exercise of legal acumen. Every morning a clerk comes to his room at the top of the Law Courts and reads aloud the various documents. He is quick to grasp each one, and his decisions as to the administration of the estates of lunatics are seldom at fault. His house in Regent's Park is full of Crome's etchings, which, thanks to the descriptive power of his wife, he is still able to enjoy.

WE learn that there were large attendances in the churches at Rothesay and district on Sunday, September 11th, when nine well-known blind organists officiated in eleven churches of different denominations. In addition to conducting the usual praise service brief organ recitals were given at the close of the evening services in six churches. Several of the ministers referred in appreciative terms to the high standard of attainment manifested by the visiting organists, and the hope was expressed that in all cases where vacancies occurred for church organists an equality of opportunity would always be given to blind candidates. The experiment has been so well received that it is hoped it may be repeated at some future time. 0

THE best workman is he who loves his work.

HOPE is like the sun, which, as we journey towards it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

S. Smiles.





HE following article, contributed by a blind journalist, demonstrates the fact that blindness is by no means a bar to literary aspirations:—

When the Cockney gentleman, dressed in kilt and plaid, badgered Rory the driver of the West Highland coach about his horn, Rory got nettled and said truly, "Ta shentlemens in this coach plow

their own horn." It is not my intention to "plow my own horn" in these notes. but simply to make good my assertion that a blind person can and may do work for a newspaper, if he has a reasonable gift of stringing words together. Some years ago I asserted in the columns of a Braille magazine that a man might work on a farm, although he saw nothing of his surroundings, and my assertions were laughed to scorn by some correspondents. But from my own experience I find that no amount of laughter will shake me from the conviction that a blind man can do a bit of reporting for a newspaper; or he may write up some descriptive article on some public meeting in his own district, and may do it so well that he may command a few shillings for his work.

If I give the reader some notes from my own experience, he will understand that this is not done for the purpose of exhibition, but as an eucouragement to others who may have some thought to try what can be done in this direction.

We are all aware that Prescott, who wrote those wonderful histories of the ancient civilizations of Mexico and Peru, was blind, and how he managed to dictate his work, and even more wonderful still, how he managed to gather together his facts are marvels which we cannot explain. But Prescott is an exception, and we cannot all aspire to be Prescotts, but we may be able to leave our little footprints on the sands of time if we can write of the things that come

under our notice daily, and provided we can make these things interesting to others we should be able to command a limited market for our wares.

While my eyesight was never good, I was able to move about freely in the remote rural district in which I am still a resident, and could read and write tolerably well. And as the conditions of service were not then so rigid as they are now, I managed to secure the appointment of local postman. That was rendered all the easier by the fact that the weekly pay was only seven shillings. But it was a job which gave me time to read and to think, and to observe as far as my limited vision would allow. And in due time I gathered together quite a mass of information about farms and farming and the country folk and their ways, and in this remote Scottish parish I felt that I might do something with my store. My eyesight began to fail somewhat, and I set to work to write for the local papers. I had already begun to write local news for some of them, and got little more for it than a copy of the paper itself. Then I started to write what I called Rural Notes, and as my eyesight still failed me more and more, I tried to extend these in the hope that I might be able to carry on after the inevitable collapse came. As notes were sometimes hard to find, I started to write a short dialogue as between two farmers. and couched this dialogue in the Scottish tongue, or that special dialect of it which is and was spoken in my own parish. This short dialogue caught on, and the editor of the paper suggested to me that I should extend it, and he would make it a feature of his paper. I did so, and hit on a column as the proper length of the article, and every week for the last twenty years I have written this column for this paper. For eleven of these years I have never seen to read a word of what I write, and there are no corrections made. There are no doubt blunders creeping in, but so far, I have had no complaints about that.

and I go on week by week writing for this paper at a fairly remunerative salary now. At first I wrote for nothing, simply for the love of it, but when evesight failed me and the only reward for 27 years' service which a beneficent country could afford to pay me was a pension of ten pounds a year, I was compelled to seek some remuneration, and it was given at once. A typewriter was procured and I taught myself to use it, and here I am now writing column after column of matter of little or no importance except to a small community. But I find that expatriated Scots get this paper sent to them to all parts of the world for the sole purpose of being able to read a weekly article in their Mother Tongue. I find also that I can attend meetings and take away with me all the information required by the average reporter and write it out for other local papers. There is nothing to hinder any blind man from sending in the local news to some local paper, and if his only remuneration is a copy of the paper daily, that in itself is a great boon in these days of dear paper. Of course, the typewriter is essential to those who would write. And the art of stringing words together does improve by practice. I would therefore recommend the reader who has the gift of writing easily and fluently to attempt it, and to stick to the things he knows about, the life and work of the people among whom he resides, and it will surprise him how much good and readable material he can secure.

I have found that story-telling is an excellent pastime for blind folk. I have written more tales of one or two chapters each than I care to think of now, and I was foolish enough to write one of twenty-six chapters, which was a fearful undertaking for one who is blind. Take some little incident that has happened in your district, or that you imagine could happen, and work it into a tale, with some lively dialogue and plenty of local colour, and you will be surprised how well your friends and neigh-" Hilly. bours will like it.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY

The following have been added to the Massage Library :-

Swedish Remedial Exercises (Notes). In three vols. Encephalitis Lethargica, by G. S. Haynes, M.D. Pocket edition)

Instinct and Conflict, by Ernest W. Jones, M.D. (Pocket edition).

THE NATIONAL UNION OF ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

THREE days' congress was held in London last month by the National Union of Organists' Association. This Union now includes some thirty associations, with a membership of 2,000 organists. On the second day of the congress a visit was paid to the National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street. Some fifty members of the Union attended, and were received by Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., Director of Music. and Mr. Edward Watson, Music Publications Advisor of the Institute. The visitors were shown over the building and inspected the specimens of the Institute's edition of the work of British Blind Composers, which were on view in the Armitage Hall. They also paid a visit to the Stereotyping and Embossing Departments to see how Braille music and literature are produced. A short programme of music by blind composers was much appreciated by the visitors, who both collectively and individually expressed their deep interest in the proceedings. It was obvious that very many had become acquainted with Braille music for the first time.

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC*

1 Piano Solos-

record.

(a) March "Humoreske" Wolstenholme (b) "Noel"

PLAYED BY THE COMPOSER

" Minuet Antique" H. Watling 2 Organ Mr. H. C. WARRILOW

3 Songs (a) "Sleep, Dear Heart" Sinclair Logan
(b) "Early one Morning" "

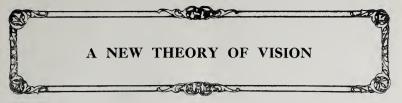
SUNG BY THE COMPOSER "

"Moods of a Mind" H. V. Spanner 4 Piano PLAYED BY THE COMPOSER

5 Organ " March Heroique" H. Watling Mr. H. C. WARRILOW

IT is stated that Miss Emma Mast, a totally blind woman of Berkeley, California, is one of the most expert coffee tasters on the Pacific side of the United States. She works for six wholesale coffee dealers in San Francisco, and it is claimed that she has tested 210 samples in two hours, that is to say, not quite two samples per minute. Her brother, who is employed in the same business, has failed to equal his sister's

^{*} All the numbers, with the exception of "Humoreske," are from the National Institute for the Blind's Edition of the works of British Blind Composers.





E are still far from exact knowledge about the sense by which light-rays give us knowledge of the external world. Many living things without eyes respond to light. Green shoots bend towards its source, uncovered rootlets twist away from it. Most singlecelled animals or plants are attracted or repelled by it. Light seems to have a direct chemical

action on the skin of smooth-skinned fishes or newts, which excites nerve-organs. But these vague responses to stimulation are different from the definite conceptions of external objects which the eves convey to the brain of vertebrates. The ancestor of all the vertebrates appears to have been a transparent animal, and the primitive eyes were developed directly on the brain. In the course of evolution vertebrates became larger and more opaque, and the eyes grew outwards from the brain towards a little piece of skin which retained the primitive transparency. The sensitive retina, on which images are focussed and transformed into the messages interpreted as sensations of light and colour, is developed in every individual as an outgrowth from the brain. The optical apparatus, which focusses the images. is developed from the skin and the tissues underlying it.

The functions of the eyeball, a moving camera obscura which can be directed to wards the object of vision by muscles, of the transparent and protective cornea, of the iris, and of the lens are well understood. Their qualities can be appreciated and their defects corrected. This living optical instrument places a sharp image on the sensitive retina, just as a photographer's camera places an image on the sensitive film. But we do not know how the presence of the image on the retina excites the optic nerve to convey the messages which the brain interprets as knowledge of the outer world. There is,

moreover, an odd difference in the quality of the information transferred. That concerning size, shape, and extension appears to be an approximately correct delineation of the external world. It can be verified by other senses and its inexactitudes can be explained by the qualities of the optical instrument. But the information as to colour is on a different footing. Colour vision certainly tells us something about differences between external objects which we would not know otherwise. But the colours are in the mind. not in the external world, and not only people with normal vision but those with different kinds of colour blindness "see' colours in a fashion in which they do not exist.

Light, visible or invisible, consists of an unbroken series of wave motions ranging from the long waves at the red end of the spectrum to the short waves beyond the violet end. There is nothing to distinguish one end of the spectrum from the other except the frequency of the waves. And yet we "see" it as broken up into bands of colour. Habit may lead us to suppose that we see a gradual transition along the spectrum, one colour passing continuously into the next. But Edridge-Green has shown that the eye is incapable of perceiving an indefinite number of spectral colours. By the use of a shutter any part of the spectrum can be isolated, when it is found that a certain breadth appears all of the same colour. Normal people break up the whole spectrum into from 16 to 20 uniform bands of colour. Persons with abnormal sight divide it into a smaller number of areas varying with the nature of their colourblindness. According to the Young-Helmholtz theory, there are only three primary sensations of colour, the different colours being blends of these. Other observers give a larger number. But it is at least certain that the eye interprets the continuous spectrum as a small number of patches.

Prof. J. Joly, of the University of Dublin, has recently proposed a theory to explain these peculiarities of colour vision. When a ray of light reaches the retina, it sets free "photo-electrons." Each of these contains a known quantum of energy determined by the frequency or wave-length of the kind of light to which its liberation is due. The electrons discharged by the red end, where the waves are long, have a small quantum of energy. There is a continuous increase in the quantum towards the violet end, where the short waves liberate more energetic electrons. These electrons have an action like the pulling of a trigger on the rods and cones of the retina, releasing a store of energy sufficient to send a stimulus up to the brain. But trigger action is a hit or miss; the energy of the propelled bullet depends on the explosive charge, not on the pull. The rods and cones of the retina are known to be the receptor cells which receive the stimulation of light, and pass it on as a relayed message to the brain. Professor Joly suggests a function for a known difference in their structure. Each rod is the starting-point of an extremely delicate thread which must be the channel of communication to the brain. Each cone has a stouter link with the brain, possibly consisting of a bundle of threads. He suggests that whatsoever be the quantum of energy in the electron which enters a rod, it can send only one kind of message to the brain. He supposes, therefore, that the rods are the apparatus by which messages of the presence or absence of light are received and transmitted, without distinction as to "colour." But electrons entering the cones can ring up two, three, or four of the fibres. according to their quantum of energy, and so send different kinds of messages corresponding with different kinds of light. By an elaborate physical argument he shows that quanta of energy would be excited in these proportions by the parts of the spectrum representing the three primary colours-red, green, and blue-violet-of the Young-Helmholtz theory. If he is right, the physical structure of the eve would thus account for the manner in which the sense of vision interprets external objects as displaying sharply marked colours. The Times

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TAKE the world as God's world and the sun and stars will always be shining.

DREAMS WITHOUT SIGHT

THE following article was contributed to The Daily News by Mr. Rex Furness, who was blinded during the war while acting as chemist in charge of a new process of

munition making:-

"We younger blind regard blindness merely as a handicap which can be wrestled with, and we like to think that we are regarded as perfectly normal individuals who merely cannot see. But there is one time when we do see, and this is in our dreams. Dreaming thus becomes a very

pleasant sensation.

"Although the blind sleeper 'sees' in his dreams, it is curious that in most dreams he knows very definitely at the time that he is really blind. I was in my old college laboratory when I saw a young lady, unfortunately blind, so I thought, in obvious difficulties as regards her whereabouts. I immediately went to help her, and led her through the intricacies of the passages, but all the time I knew I was blind, and could think how strange it was that I could act as escort. Many similar dreams have come to me, and scores have been reported.

"Another remarkable feature concerning the dreams of the blind is the frequency with which the 'flying' dream occurs. The sensation of floating through the air is very common. One blind man I know experiences this sensation in 70 per cent. of his dreams. For this I have no explanation to offer, but in this case, too, all objects are usually

perfectly visible.

"Those of us who become blind in adult age seem to have four distinct types of dreams-namely, those in which we 'see' perfectly, those in which we 'see,' but are conscious all the time of being blind, those in which objects are blurred, and those in which impressions come to us, as in waking hours, through the intermediary of senses other than that of sight. It is the experience of some that dreams of the fourth class gradually take first place as time passes and the stock of remembered images gradually fails. 'Seeing' in dreams is almost, if not entirely, absent in the case of persons who have been blind from birth. Dreaming itself is of infrequent occurrence with such people. "

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

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Progress.—King Edward VII (Part I)—London Streets and their Names, by J. H. Roberts—Facts about a Great Weather Mystery—A Fragment (Poem)—Garden Notes (September)—Our Prize Competitions—The Philosopher and the Cuckoo—Matters of the Moment—The New China—The Man who Invented the Telephone—National Health and Voluntary Insurances—The Question Box—Chess—Our Home Page—Advertisements.

School Magazine.—A Legend of Reading Abbey, III, by C. Macfarlane (to be continued)—Adventurers of England, by M. E. Herrington—The Theory of Relativity—Queries—The Chinese Alphabet—Sir Edwin Chadwick—Biography in Brief: Edmud Spenser—The Universe of Stars—The Crown and the Thames—If all the Skies (Poem), by Henry Van Dvke—The Feelings of Insects.

Comrades.—Adventures of Don Quixote, II, from the "Children's Encyclopadia" (to be continued)—The Old Woman who lived in a Shell, from "The Rambler Nature Book"—Perseus and the Gorgon's Head—Daisy and the Apples—Puzzles—The Magic Penny (Gradel) (to be continued), by Madeline Barnes—Fairies, by Rosa Fyleman—Work, by Sir Robert Baden-Powell

The Hampstead.—Vulture's Haven, by Bertram Atkey—Here comesthe Bride!—Secret of the Sahara —Towns that are Proud—Attempt to Seize the Throne.

Braille Musical Magazine. — The Case Against Memory Playing, by J F. Porte—Hints on the Preparation of Musical Manuscript intended for Publication (I)—Dictionary of Organis and Organists —Notes and News Concerning the Blind—Correspondence—Novelties at the "Proms"—Harmonies on the Violim—Church and Organ Music—Dvorak's "Humoresque" — Supplement: Braille Musical Reviews; Insets: Song, "Facing the Sea," by McLeod Steel; Piano, "Zingaresca," by L. Will ams.

Santa Lucia.—The Rain Man—The Pawn's Count, chapters 34-37 (concluded), by E. Phillips Oppenheim —Caruso—The Heart as a Pump.

The Literary Journal.—The Nail, by George A. Scott.—The Tragedy of Lord Kitchener—The Gospel Miracles and Modern Thought.—The Speakership—The Press and Sport—National Library for the Blind—In the Days of Nero (II)—The Vine in England—Sea Fever, by John Massfield.

The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.—Postural or so-called Static Deformities (concluded) — Official Notices—Massage Examination — Medical Gymnastics Examination — Examination in Exercises (Blind Students only)—Report of Examinations

A. C. B. M. Journal. — Lecture: The Plaintiff, a Psychological Study, from *The Practitioner*, May 1921 —Lecture: Encephalitis Lethargica—Official Notices.



The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Luck Penny (continued)—The Clerkship of the House of Commons (continued)—More Precious than Gold— Flowers that Tell the Time—Hedges must go—Our Cleverest Lady-Gardener—New Publications



Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mine of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

A COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF BLIND GIRLS

has recently been opened under the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind at The Cedars, Chorley Wood, Herts., where blind and partially blind pupils receive a first-class specialised education. There are vacancies at the College and full particulars as to the curriculum, fees, etc. can be obtained from the Headmistress, Miss Phillis MONK, M.A., at the above address.

The National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, W.I., has in stock WALTHAM WATCHES, in Solid Silver Hunter Case, with Enamelled Dial. The quarter-hours are represented by two small dots, the remaining numerals by one large dot. The hands are sufficiently strengthened to meet the requirements of the blind. These watches are obtainable in three grades, at the following prices:—

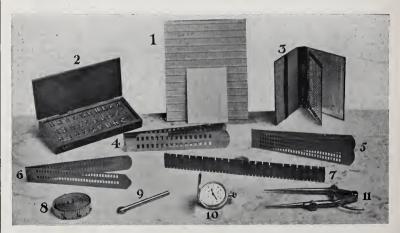
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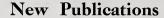


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NOVEMBER, 1921.

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THE ECONOMICS OF INDUSTRY

By BEN PURSE.

"All men have an inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'

(Thomas Jefferson).

N these days, when the world's markets are so thoroughly disorganised and foreign exchanges lack every vestige of stability, the student of industrial problems is, in the very nature of things, led more closely to examine those basic economic laws and precepts which have heretofore formed part of the stock-in-trade of the orthodox schools of thought.

We are by no means overstating the case when it is suggested that many of the long cherished canons of political economy will require to be revised and restated in the light of past and present experiences. But this is all to the good, for the votaries of "the dismal science" have heretofore done too little clear think-

ing and too much dogmatising.

The object of this article, however, is not that of attempting to "flog a dead horse," but briefly to examine some of the theories that are generally accepted in relation to what is after all, to the great majority of men and women, a mere matter of very minor importance. We refer to the critical industrial and economic situation in that sphere which we call "the Blind World."

It has almost become an article of faith to speak slightingly of the progress that has been registered in this arena. So much is this the case that to hold another point of view and dare to express the same, is to be excommunicate from the conclave of "all true believers."

The writer has so frequently been anathematised for his want of orthodoxy that still further to add to one's alleged lapses from the accepted faith is incidentally to perform a real service to the doctrinaire, for he is thereby provided with a mental tonic which is so necessary to the stimulation of his dull wits and the clarifying of his reason.

We wish it to be understood then, that however unsatisfactory the problem of the employment of the Blind may be to-day, it is most consoling to reflect that really substantial progress has been made, for, relatively speaking, many of the chief obstacles have nearly, if not quite, been triumphantly surmounted. The present depression, of course, is a necessary part of the general dislocation and may for our present purposes, at all events, be regarded as a phase only in the general economic upheaval.

Half a century ago but few people believed in the possibility of making a blind man or woman capable of contributing anything towards his or her sustenance, save by various processes of mendicancy. The Institutions under-taking systematic industrial training were so few in number as to be almost negligible, and looking back into such records as are still extant and comparing these with recently published reports, the progress indicated is such as to fill one

with hopefulness for the future. The one plain thing to be remembered and appreciated is the fact that it has been demonstrated beyond all dispute that sightless people, given reasonable educational advantages, technical training and employment, can contribute at least something appreciable towards their own maintenance.

We may,—doubtless we shall—find it very necessary in the near future to reorganise and readjust our facilities for both training and employment more in proportion to the exigencies of trade conditions than has been the case in the past. But these gradations and variations will not shut us out from spheres of usefulness and activity; they merely represent the view point that we must readjust the mechanism of things so as readily to adapt such machinery as we have to changing conditions.

Whether we like it or no, legislation has decreed that State activity, municipal enterprise and philanthropic effort must co-operatively act in the future in the determination and ultimate settlement of the problems which have been confronting us in the past. There are those who sav that the obligation is purely a voluntary one; there are others who take a diametrically opposite view point and assume that nothing of value can be accomplished unless we begin de novo. But as usual, the via media is the rational road to take, and by enlisting all sympathies and interests, experiences and capacities, strive to continue the building-up process.

This policy has a two-fold advantage, in that it possesses the sanction of law and the goodwill of those who have done so much in the past and are prepared to continue their efforts in the future. If we are ultimately destined to have State management and control, and if State organisation and employment of our labour is to come, it will not be impeded by the adoption of such a policy, for in the natural course of things, when voluntary effort exhausts itself, such State management will be the obvious and resultant process.

There are, however, many vital problems in industry confronting us before we reach the conception indicated in the foregoing sentences; e.g., we have to determine, either by the application of our own industry or other methods yet to

be discovered, what is to be the relative value of our production in relationship to wage conditions.

These problems are of supreme moment and importance to all who are keenly interested in the organisation and development of industries for the Blind, and it is to the economic aspects of these problems that this series of articles will be devoted.

WITH THE CITY GUILDS

↑ N exhibition and sale of basket work recently took place at Gresham College, following an examination two days previously. Certificates were awarded by the Company for good workmanship. The exhibition comprised three sections: (1) Work by disabled men trained under the Ministry of Labour's scheme: (2) work by blinded soldiers at Dunstan's; (3) ordinary trade The baskets came from all exhibits. parts of the country, including the Isle of Man, and the work was generally of a high order. Of the disabled men, 73 per cent. passed the test. Some of the skilled work was exquisite, according to the "City Press."

The Ministry of Labour highly appreciates the work of the Basketmakers' Company, and especially of the Prime Warden and the Clerk, in connection with the craft, and the training scheme of the Ministry. This scheme is receiving the support of the Employers' Federation and of the Labour Unions.



In this work-a-day world the best reward for good work done is the power of doing more and doing it better.



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND.—The next Examination for the Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19, will be held on the 3rd and 5th DECEMBER. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the Examination. Must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years, and be intending to remain resident. Application should be made to the Principal on or before Saturday, the 12th November, and the Forms, properly filled in and completed, returned to the College before the 21st November, or the Candidate's name will not be placed on the list.

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ENVIRONMENT AS EDUCATOR

By G. F. Mowatt (Member of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind)



HERE is a wise old English proverb which says: "A child is better unborn than untaught." It may perhaps sound trite, but I imagine that its significance lies in what is meant by "taught" or "untaught." There are some people who consider that education is merely a matter of mastering a certain amount of dry-as-dust facts

from text-books. They do not seem to consider for one moment the educational influence of environment, the subtle formation of beauty of thought and purity of ideal by the beauty of nature and the purity of the air. They cram facts with all the ferocity of Dickens' Mr. Gradgrind into a child's head until it is nigh to bursting, and so stifle the vivid play of the imagination that the highest possible product can only be a walking dictionary.

A boy or girl whose intelligence is in that stage of growth best characterised as the receptive stage needs far more than facts for nutriment. Mental feelers are out everywhere, sucking in this influence, sucking in that, and unless there is beauty, taste and cleanliness in surroundings, a certain amount of ugliness, vulgarity and impurity is bound to effect a lodgment in the mind. It may afterwards be eradicated by forces from within, but it is a most vital duty of parents and guardians to see that in all ways possible, right and not wrong is inculcated from without, not only during babyhood and youth, but even more so during adolescence.

I am led to make these remarks by the thought that at one school, at any rate, every effort has been made to secure that these outward forces or influences combine beauty of surroundings, purity of atmosphere, sincerity of purpose, and highly specialised knowledge in a remarkable degree. And this, at a school where perhaps good outward influences are more vitally necessary than elsewhere—a school for the Blind.

At less than an hour's journey from Baker Street, nestling in the folds of the Hertfordshire hills and stretching across their healthy slopes, lies the picturesque village of Chorley Wood. One of the beauty spots of the neighbourhood is "The Cedars," once a private house but now a college for girls with little or no sight, recently opened by the National Institute for the Blind.

This spacious house and grounds was most generously presented to the National Institute for the specific purpose of forming a College for Blind Girls, by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Batty, well-known to readers of the "Beacon" as benefactors to Blind. The National Institute accepted the gift most gratefully, but at the same time the Council knew that they were making themselves responsible for a big undertaking, necessitating considerable expenditure. They considered it their duty, however, to take advantage of so splendid an opportunity of opening a new world to blind girls, and, to put it briefly, courageously shouldered the responsibility.

After many constructional changes in the house itself, the result is now to be seen—a College for girls with little or no sight (the first of its kind in the country) which can bear comparison with the best Girls' Colleges in England.

Let me give you a little picture of this unique school, which already has twelve pupils. At the end of a shady avenue, you arrive in front of the house, and on each side of you are the wonderful cedars, noble, magnificent trees which could tell you stories of Elizabethan England, the Wars of the Roses, even the Crusades,

for some of them have lived since then. Around stretch lawns and gardens, where the breezes bring health to the most jaded lungs. You pass into the College by a fine doorway which opens directly into the Common Room, lofty and airy, an ideal place for a quiet read and study, for one wall is tapestried with Braille books. Then you pass down straight passages from which open classrooms, junior and senior, the handwork room, the dining hall, drill and music rooms, the huge conservatory and the kitchens.

Upstairs are spacious dormitories for the junior pupils, and cubicles divided by curtains for the seniors. As you walk from room to room, even though you cannot actually see their appointments or their surroundings, or the delightful views from the windows, you instinctively feel that here is beauty, fitness, purity of atmosphere, everything which can induce the imagination to conceive and the mind to fructify. Here are outward influences which will affect your whole life for good should you pass within these walls the youthful days of your life, for here is something to remember, something to carry away with you, beyond knowledge, as divine equipment in the battle of life.

Apart from this magic atmosphere, the College provides, by means of its carefully-chosen staff, all the essentials of a first-class education. The ordinary curriculum embraces religious knowledge, English, history, geography, mathematics, science, modern languages, classics, domestic and other arts and crafts, music (class-singing and instrumental) gymnastics, dancing, gardening and other outdoor exercises. Special attention is given to music, and you will find that these sightless girls see far more in music than harmony and sound, for they penetrate into the inward meaning and soul of the great art.

The Headmistress, Miss Phyllis Monk, has had a most distinguished scholastic career, and she is assisted by a highly qualified staff. Pupils are received from the age of seven years. There are three departments: Preparatory, from seven to twelve; the Main School, from twelve to nineteen approximately; while students over school age

who wish to specialise in certain subjects form the third section. The fees are very moderate in these expensive times, £35 a term, inclusive of full board and residence, ordinary medical attention and laundry.

The parents of girls who are blind or possess no useful sight could not do better than pay a visit to this wonderful college and have a chat with the Headmistress. I am sure in less than ten minutes she would convince the most hardened disbeliever that for those who can afford to give their child a good education a college where the girl can be with her fellow-students, in normal, happy surroundings, is infinitely better than a private tutor, or a college for the sighted, where the blind are bound to feel apart and abnormal. The idea that a blind girl is something to be pampered and petted and wept over in seclusion is entirely wrong and entirely cruel. school are formed those lasting and noble friendships which stand out like beacons of light in many a grey and monotonous career. Remember how beautifully Celia describes her friendship for her cousin Rosalind in "As You Like It":

"We still have slept together, Rose at an instant, learn'd, play'd, eat together, And whereso'er we went, like Juno's swans, Still we went coupled and inseparable."

The more you mix with others, the more friends are made, the more interests are awakened. Merely because a child has the misfortune to be born blind, should she be deprived by those who love her of those delightful interests of school and college life, that noble spirit of emulation, that quickening of the imagination, which rest like a golden halo around the memory of early years when one grows old?

Every blind girl in the Kingdom whose parents can afford her a good deducation should be at "The Cedars." Here the foundation will be laid for a career of usefulness, peacefulness and beauty, of interest in the living world of striving, hopeful men and women. You have only to listen to the gay laughter of the pupils at "The Cedars" as they dance in the big hall or stroll through the beautiful grounds to be sure that here is the strongest antidote to sorrow, helplessness and dependency.





T a meeting in Manchester on the 6th October, Captain Ian Fraser, the vice-chairman of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' After-care Committee, which is responsible for the welfare of the ex-service men trained at St. Dunstan's, addressed the blinded ex-service men of that district. Meetings of a similar nature

are held periodically all over the country for the purpose of getting into individual touch with the St. Dunstan's men and hearing of their progress or difficulties.

Captain Fraser spoke of the desire of the Committee to establish mutual confidences by the discussion of mutual difficulties-their own individual and collective difficulties and the difficulties of the organisation which was trying to help them. All the blinded men of the Imperial Forces, he said, including men from the Dominions and colonies, had come under the care of St. Dunstan's, with the exception of less than half a dozen who were sent from distant theatres of war direct to their homes in Australia or Canada, or who, for family reasons, did not want to stay in England. Nearly two dozen men who returned to their respective homes in the earlier days of the war had been sent back by their Governments for training. This was a fine testimony. Of 1,700 men trained, 150 had returned to the colonies, whence St. Dunstan's heard often of their success. About 200 men whose sight had failed recently as a result of wounds received during the war or whose additional disability had made training a slow process were still receiving instruc-There remained some 1,350 men settled over the United Kingdom. The majority of these men were engaged in handicrafts such as boot-repairing, basket-making, mat-making, and joinery;

200 of them were settled as poultry farmers, and nearly 200 were engaged in professional or business employment. such as massage, shorthand writing, and telephone operating. The craftsmen were supplied with their raw materials at cost price carriage paid. The annual turn-over of the Committee in raw materials alone amounted to £65,000. Committee. moreover, guaranteed market for any goods produced by the men, so that everyone was assured of a living. It was significant that only £20,000 worth of goods was disposed of by the Committee's sales organisation. which indicated a very considerable local trade. In view of the prevailing trade conditions, he congratulated the men upon their splendid fight against adverse circumstances. The Committee employed a staff of 30 men and women to visit the men periodically or when particular difficulties arose. Many thousands of visits were paid annually, and the records supplied in the reports made it possible for assistance of the right sort to be given at the right time.

St. Dunstan's, Captain Fraser concluded, provided a remarkable vindication of the Englishman's pride in private enterprise. Funds were still needed and would be needed during the remainder of the lifetime of the men who had been blinded in the war. It was hoped that the nation would continue to support the organisation and enable it to discharge its obligations with the freedom, initiative, sympathy, and individual attention which a private enterprise alone was able to afford.

Captain Fraser answered a number of questions concerning the administrative work of the organisation. A vote of thanks to him was carried on the motion of Councillor Mathewson Watson.

-Manchester Guardian.

2 minimum & MUSEUMS AND THE BLIND

By A. N. Shaw, B.A., Oxon., Head Teacher, Council School for the Blind, Sunderland



HE practicability of showing museums and art gallery treasures to the blind was first demonstrated in a lecture before the Museums Association in 1913 (published in the "Museums Journal," 1913), by I. Á. Charlton Deas, Director of the Sunderland Public Museum, Art Gallery, and Libraries, with a cogency of argument and fertility of illustration

No development in this branch of education should constitute a more enduring source of gratification to the originator, and afford better facilities for the mental training of the blind, than the universal adoption of this experiment; and it is with this idea that the writer-himself blind-is desirous of asking more Education Committees to approach museum authorities and get to work in educating the blind in this practical way. the assistance and sympathetic co-operation of the various authorities, which ought not to be difficult to secure, such a course of training should constitute an

indispensable addition to the curriculum

of every institution in the country en-

gaged in the education of the blind.

which leave nothing to be desired.

The system is periodically carried out with conspicuous success in Sunderland, its pioneer place of origin; where both children and adults have derived invaluable advantages and pleasure through the persistent efforts and perennial interest of the director and his Though interested in the reports of the experiments from the first, it was not until the last two years that the present writer had the opportunity to test the methods personally.

He recently devoted some time to the examination of the cases of archæological specimens in historical sequence, when actual physical contact with the contents of those cases conveyed to his mind a far more vivid and lasting impression of realities than had been achieved by the study of many volumes!

With one avenue of activity closed. the problem presented for solution is: How to develop the imagination of blind children and adults on correct lines; and the difficulty is partly psychological, partly physical. Diagrammatic representations of objects in relief, more especially of natural history specimens, are, for all practical purposes, useless, while models fail to afford any adequate conception either of relative proportion, size, or texture.

Well-directed and intelligent handling of the objects themselves, thus become a sine qua non to any really effective appreciation of their form and texture. In this direction, the lecturettes and expert scientific knowledge of the Sunderland staff, are furnishing additional confirmation of the incalculable value of the method it is most strenuously sought to advocate, by stimulating curiosity, and developing intelligent interest.

In the weekly demonstrations being given to the blind children and adults, the hand becomes the organ of visualisation and the medium of mental percep-tion. In this admirable work, Sunderland no longer stands alone. methods have been adopted in Edinburgh, Liverpool, and certain other important towns, and a number of museums, including the British Museum, give special facilities from time to time. Colonial and foreign museums have shown great keenness, and much is now being done with this valuable idea in the American Museum of Natural History and other leading museums of the United States.

There are, however, still some public and a number of semi-private museums of a character which could give invaluable help to the blind in their respective districts, if encouraged to do so by local authorities

In those places where museums are municipally supported access should present little difficulty, for practically all the curators favour the method, while in other museums a small contribution on the part of the blind institutions would be a good educational investment, would stimulate local interest in the blind themselves, and evoke much sympathy and co-operation of all concerned.

"TAKE your little blind child, educate him, make him a self-respecting rate-payer and taxpayer instead of a permanent charge upon the rates and taxes, and then you will have done something that ought to be done."—Mr. Charles Macauley at the Annual Meeting at the Leicester Institute for the Blind.

Mr. H. G. Wells says somewhere that "we must either study world history or perish." In this direction museums are the best of all class-rooms, in which each exhibit is a demonstration itself, conveying to the mind those vivid impressions which are rarely attainable without actual contact and examination. Experientia docet, and it is the benefits conferred by such teaching which have inspired this plea, and the hope of its systematic and even more universal adoption.

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A LYRIC

Blue vaulted sepulchre where buried lie My fondest hopes;—there, all the halcyon dreams Woven by mem'ry in a thousand themes Tô which the lips have said a last goodbye;—These all are gone,—twere vain to sit and sigh—The world is still full rich with precious schemes, And in the coming harvest days, proud teams Will garner safely both the wheat and rye.

The master hand that fashioned this fair world, Aye, and a thousand other spheres, perchance, Who knows?—thy soul, his gift, he hath not hurled

Into the vapid cauldron of romance: Thy virtues are the gems he would enhance, Weaving for thee a diadem impearled.

Ben Purse.

CORRESPONDENCE

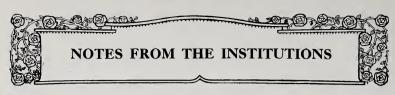
MORE ABOUT NEWSPAPER WORK FOR THE BLIND

EAR Sir. It was with great interest that I read the article on the above subject, and heard that more than one blind person has proved the practicability of newspaper work. It is nearly ten years since I was appointed local correspondent for a weekly paper at Boston, some twenty miles or more from my town. After gaining experience of the work by proceeding slowly and gathering hints from other newspaper correspondents with whom I came in contact, I satisfied myself that the work could be made really profitable if I put myself in touch with other journals; and in course of time I have been able to establish relations with a number of weekly papers in Lincolnshire, as well as several provincial dailies-among others the Yorkshire Post. may interest your readers to know that one of my connections is with the oldest newspaper in the country, the Lincoln, Rutland and Stamford Mercury, which has appeared continuously since 1605.

According to my view, a blind man has almost as good a chance at journalism in a small town as a sighted man, but I imagine could hardly keep pace with a sighted rival in a large city, where news has to be served up too rapidly for a blind man to cope with it. Given a convenient sphere of operation, the main essentials, I think, are a typewriter, a retentive memory, a large circle of friends, and above all what may be described as the news scent—the readiness to discriminate between what is news and what mere gossip. All these can be acquired by any blind man of average ability. A knowledge of shorthand, though of course useful, is not absolutely necessary for work in small towns, unless one is actually on the office staff. As a proof that such work can be made remunerative, I may add that I now derive from it more than half of a taxable income.

Trusting this information may be interesting and useful to some of your readers.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
"LIMERICUS."





ALAMCOTTAH SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND.—A year's satisfactory progress is recorded in the latest report of the Schools for the Blind, Palamcottah, South India. In spite of the lack of assistant teachers and of extended accommodation, the school syllabus has been enlarged and examination results have shown consistent

improvement. Both boys and girls are taught weaving, and all the candidates for the Government Weaving Examination held last November were successful. seven out of fourteen entrants obtaining First-Class marks. We note with interest that during the C.M.S.'s Centenary celebrations in February some of the little blind girls took part in a tableau which represented blind children being brought to the school and the teaching there, whilst some of the boys gave a lusty demonstration of the opposition to early Christianity. In each case the performers received a great ovation from a large crowd of onlookers. It is interesting to hear that whilst the report was being compiled the institution was planning the formation of a band of blind boy scouts and had sent its headmaster. Mr. Jonathan David, to Nazareth, there to undergo training as a scoutmaster. The value of such an undertaking cannot be overestimated.

A T a meeting held in Cardiff last August it was decided to form a Recreation Club for blind folk in that city. This is to be known as the "Cardiff Blind Recreation Club," and it has been decided to register it under the Blind Persons Act, 1920. In explaining the aims of the club, its president, Mr. H. C. Bement recently said:—

"The formation of such a club, with its games and reading, discussion and music, perhaps a café, will do much to raise the status of blind persons. People will more readily take us into their company when they realise that we are capable of taking our part in the amenities of social life such as whist, cards, dominoes, chess, and the like. ... In sending us the above information, the secretary, Mr. W. Thomas, expresses the hope that the formation of this club will inspire other blind communities to follow in its footsteps.

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VICTORY over blindness has been demonstrated by ten blind boys of Worcester College for the Higher Education of the Blind who will be in residence at Oxford this term.

One of them, Mr. W. Higby, who has just passed Responsions, passed in Latin, French, Mathematics, and created a record for the blind by passing in Theoretical and *Practical* Chemistry, a feat which a few years ago would have been deemed inconceivable. He is entering St. John's College next week.

Practically all these ten blind undergraduates will be able to give a good account of themselves on the river, as Worcester College has scored many rowing successes against sighted Colleges

on the River Severn.

WEST LONDON WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.—The report to hand of these Workshops embraces a period of fifteen months. The wages paid during that period amounted to £1,921, and under the heading "Supplemental Wages to Workers, Sick and Holiday Allowances and Other Assistance" we find the record of £1,042. Sales to the amount of £6,959 were effected during the 15 months under review.





ANY subjects of vital importance to blind persons in Scotland were under discussion as the annual meeting of the Scottish National Federation of Institutions and Societies for the Blind, held in Dundee on September 16.

The necessity for centralisation in training, and the

difficulty of finding suitable professions for blind persons, were emphasised by Mr. W. M. Stone, Royal Blind Asylum School, Edinburgh, who submitted a paper on "Education: Primary, Secondary, and Technical."

He said that there were not many professions open for blind persons, that medicine was out of the question and law only suitable in exceptional cases. There remained the Church, teaching, and music. Only a very exceptional boy should be allowed to enter the ministry, both for his own sake and for the sake of the Church. In no case should he be allowed to enter it merely as a means of earning a living. With regard to teaching, he nearly always discouraged boys or girls from entering this profession owing to the prejudice which existed against the employment of persons as teachers. remained music, which was undoubtedly the best profession for the blind.

In technical education Scotland still clung to the old apprenticeship system. There were many blind people who wished to learn trades which they could carry on in their own homes. Was every little workshop to have a training department? Could you run a proper technical school for two or even half a dozen persons? The Scottish Advisory Committee had taken up the matter, and were of opinion that technical training should be centralised. Why should they not have a central institution for the blind, where

they could have a wide variety of crafts, special departments for home workers, and facilities for the undertaking of experimental work? That was their ideal, but the time was not yet ripe for pressing such a scheme. They would have to be content with the second best—the continuance of training at the larger institutions. The smaller ones should not attempt it.

Mr. Joshua Brand, Dundee, said centralisation had many advantages, but it had definite limits. It inevitably led to stereotyped methods. Larger classes, too, would result, and that would mean less attention would be given to the individuals. In primary and secondary schools it would tend to make the blind children a class apart—a thing they wished to avoid. He emphasised the value of teaching blind children in con-junction with sighted children. If the blind wished to do work which the sentimentalist would describe as "beautiful and artistic knick-knacks wrought by the deft fingers of the blind," let them by all means have a central institution, but if they wished blind labour to be honoured and dignified by commercial demand, they would have to encourage provincial training in provincial workshops to meet provincial needs.

Mr. W. H. Halliday, Glasgow, made the suggestion that Education Authorities should press on the Department the need for opening up the teaching profession so that blind school teachers might be employed to teach sighted children.

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BLIND LABOUR CANDIDATES.—Two of the ILabour candidates who will seek election on the Plymouth Town Council in November are blind. They are Mr. G. Parsons and Mr. S. Edwards.





OW that the season for indoor amusements is upon us we should like to let our readers know what the National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, W.I, is able to supply in the way of games for the blind.

Wooden boards with countersunk squares, for chess and draughts, are made in two pat-

terns, flat and folded. The "Compact" outfit is a cheaper production, in a card-board box 6½ by 9½ inches, and fitted with an assortment of "pieces" which enable either chess or draughts to be played.

"Russian Fives" is a game recently introduced. It is played by two persons, on a wooden board divided into 121 squares, 11 each way. It is an elaboration of the game of our schooldays, "Noughts and Crosses," the object of each player being to get five loft his pieces in a row, and to block his opponent's attempts to do so first.

Dominoes with raised pips are made in two sets, the first containing pieces up to double-six, and the second compassing double-six to double-nine.

For those who are fond of card games, packs are supplied marked in Braille for playing whist, bridge and patience, while for those who like something simpler, the same in "Cheery Families" is

provided.

"Word Making and Word Taking" is a round game in which any number of persons, both blind and sighted, may join. It is played with a large number of small squares of cardboard, each embossed with a Braille letter, and bearing in ordinary print the corresponding sighted character, the object of the players being to make words by drawing letters in turn from the heap in the centre of the table.

The ever-popular "Noughts and Crosses" needs no explanation. A small board perforated with nine holes is provided with a set of round pegs, pointed at one end, and having the other flat. One player places his pegs in the holes with the point end upwards, while his opponent shows the flat end.

Those of us who have reached middle age may possibly remember the great success of the "15" puzzle in the days of our youth. It rivalled the late craze of "Jig-saw" pictures, and a music-hall song was written about it. This puzzle is now available for the blind. Small square blocks, numbered I to 15, are arranged promiscuously in a square box which will hold sixteen, thus leaving one square vacant. The puzzle is to arrange the blocks in the proper numerical order by sliding them about, one at a time, and without taking any from the box. The pieces have been carefully designed for the use of the blind, the edges being brailled and the corners rounded to facilitate the sliding to and fro.

It is a most fascinating puzzle, and will give pleasure equally to the child or to the methematician.

The "Brahma" puzzle is stated to be of very ancient Hindu origin. It consists of a small board about four inches long in which three upright pegs are firmly fixed, and eight discs gradually diminishing in size; each disc has a hole through the centre.

The discs are placed on the first peg in diminishing order, the largest at the bottom and the smallest at the top, thus forming a sort of cone. The puzzle is to transpose the pieces from the first peg to the third, moving only one at a time, and never placing a larger disc on a smaller one. All the pegs are used in making the changes, and the pieces may be moved backwards and forwards any

number of times. The least number of moves in which the puzzle can be solved

is 225

The "Book of Mazes" is a play-book which provides a new amusement for blind children. The collection includes the famous Hampton Court Maze,* with seven others, ancient and modern.

The hedges are represented by raised lines, and the pathways between, with the openings through the hedges, are left smooth. The tip of the finger, passing through the entrance in the outer hedge, wanders along the paths trying to find the way to the centre and back again.

If one finger only is used, the effect is just the same as being in a real maze, and all the fun of finding oneself lost among the twists and turns at Hampton Court

may be experienced at home.

The prices of the games and puzzles mentioned above are as follows, postage, in all cases, being extra:—

	S.	a.
"New Style" Chessboard (folding)	 15	6
"New Style" Chessboard (flat)	 8	6
Chessmen, per set	 8	6
"New Style" Draught Board (folding)	 15	0
"New Style" Draught Board (flat)	 8	0
Draughtsmen, per set	 5	0
"Compact" Chess and Draughts	 5	0
Russian Fives	 15	0
Dominoes (up to double-six)	 5	6
Dominoes (double-six to double-nine)	 6	0
Playing Cards	 2	6
Patience Cards	 2	6
Cheery Families	 3	0
Word Making	 1	0
Noughts and Crosses	 0	9
"15" Puzzle	3	0
"Brahma" Puzzle	0	9
Book of Mazes	3	6
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It has been decided by the Nottingham Tramways Committee to extend the privilege of free rides for the blind to the omnibuses. As far as the trams are concerned this concession has been enjoyed by the blind for some time.



OMIT no opportunity of doing good, and you will find no opportunity for doing ill.

STENCIL FOIL:

A Drawing Material for the Blind

THE Inventions and Research Committee of the National Institute for the Blind has recently had under consideration a material which should prove extremely useful to teachers of the blind.

Stencil foil is a very thin and soft sheet metal, similar to that which is sometimes used for the small packets in which tea and tobacco are sold; its thickness is the same as that of a thin postcard, and it does not soil the fingers

as lead foil would do.

To use the material, it should be laid on a sheet or two of blotting-paper. A drawing or diagram can then be made by using an ordinary lead pencil with rather a blunt point. Very little pressure is needed to make an impression on the foil, which, on being reversed, presents a fine raised line which can be felt clearly by the finger. The drawing can afterwards be erased by scraping the side of the pencil or the edge of a flat ruler several times across the surface of the metal, and the same piece of foil can be used over and over again.

A small piece, inserted between the pages of a pocket-book, can be carried about, and will be found extremely use-

ful

The foil may be obtained from the National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, W.I. It is supplied in sheets, each measuring 8 by 6 inches, and the price of six sheets is 1s. 3d.; postage extra.

BRASS PROTRACTORS are obtainable the National Institute for the Blind. These are six-inch semi-circular protractors with notched circumference. One quadrant is notched at every 5 degrees, and the other at every two degrees. Interpointed embossed lines mark every ten degrees and the protractor is reversible. Price 2s. each, postage extra.



"LIKE a cheerful traveller, take the road singing." Robert Browning.

[&]quot;It may be of interest to our readers to know that in the grounds at "Hoole Bank," Chester, there is a copy of the Hampton Court Maze. "Hoole Bank" was presented to the Institute by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hayes, and is now used as a guest-house for aged blind people.

THE BLIND BEGGARS OF ARABIA





UR attention has been called to an interesting and graphic description of the blind beggars of Arabia which appeared in Country Life. In spite of the fact that the article in question was written some years ago, there is little reason to suppose that the conditions described by the writer—conditions which had probably already obtained

since time immemorial—have changed to any appreciable extent during the last decade.

The Arabs have a saving to the effect that "when you travel through the country of the blind, be blind yourselves," and though, like all proverbs, it is doubtless not intended to be taken literally, still the malady of blindness is so common in Algeria, especially among the tribes that inhabit the oases of the Sahara, that the traveller may almost stop and ask himself if he has indeed come to that country of the blind. The prevalence of eye-disease is due, perhaps to the intense dazzling brilliance of the desert sun, and to that complete absence of shade which must be endured by the wandering Saharian. Ophthalmia, small-pox, flies that attack the eyes, producing sores and then diseases, to say nothing of the extreme dirt of many of the nomadic tribes, are also among the contributory causes and it is certainly no infrequent occurrence to meet persons who have lost the sight of one or both eyes.

The Arabs are usually very kind and respectful to the aged or infirm, and a blind man or woman will seldom lack the escort of one or more children to pilot them safely along the roads, and who, if they are still young and active enough to work, will assist them in hoisting their load of sticks or barley upon their backs, and see them safely home to

the humble dwelling which shelters them. "Donne un sou"! That so frequent appeal reached my ears one morning as I went down the sunlit, dusty street of the village, and a little brown hand was stretched out to me with a silver bangle encircling the slender wrist. The speaker was a little Arab girl with dark, sombre eyes; she wore her long black hair plaited into a tight rope with a strip of red cotton which almost hid it. With her. leaning on her shoulder, was an old man who seemed to belong to the days of Moses rather than to the twentieth century, so patriarchal was he in appearance. A son of Ishmael-for so the Arabs proudly describe themselves-he was known in the village as the blind marabout. By some means or other he had acquired a reputation for sanctity; he begged from door to door for alms and food, knowing that he would be denied neither, and wearing poor and ragged clothing as a testimony to the special privileges accorded to him. Perhaps-who knows?-those sightless eyes, which beheld only an impenetrable darkness that shrouded alike the glory of the African sun at noon and the splendour of the African stars at night, had learnt to dwell upon visions not of earth. The marabout is in his highest development the mystic of Islam. Specially vowed to the strictest observance of the laws of the Koran, his word is obeyed with superstitious reverence, offerings of all kinds are made to him, and even if-as often happens-he follows a humble trade or calling, he is still a man set apart. He may save bloodshed by reconciling hostile tribes or persons, and the power of his anaïa it would be difficult to gauge. Much has been written about the anaïa, and perhaps the accounts have been exaggerated; but it is certain that it is capable of ensuring the safety of men, animals, and merchandise, even of caravans passing through the most lonely and dangerous regions. With this safe conduct which the marabouts of certain tribes have the privilege of bestowing at will, a man may pass with complete security through the country of his bitterest foe. and this notwithstanding the enormity of the offences he may have committed. "To bear a charmed life" has, therefore, a real signification to the person upon whom the marabout has bestowed the anaïa. Men and women of certain tribes have a limited and local power of exercising it; the fugitive can receive it but once. A curious story is told of a party of Tunisian sailors who were shipwrecked near Bougie in the year 1833. The inhabitants, knowing them to be friends of the con-quering French, attacked them, massac-ring all except two, who flung themselves at the feet of a woman of the tribe claiming anaia. Consequently they spared, although even more than their companions, they were the allies of the hated Roumi. But, truth to tell, it is not very difficult in these degenerate days for a man to acquire the title of marabout; the term is apt to be loosely applied, and may be gained by a man markedly eccentric or, perhaps, not quite sane, who has given evidence of occult power, for the Arabs are deeply superstitious. More-over, the rôle has its disadvantages. I staved once in a little Algerian village where a long drought, unusual at the time of year, was beginning to make the Arabs nervous as to the prospects of their crops. "If this goes on," I was told, "the Arabs will duck a marabout in the village pond—they say that is sure to bring rain"! But the marabouts of repute, the high men and great warriors of the past, are sons of Islam whose tombs or koubbas, with squat domes of dazzling whiteness, are to be seen all over Algeria. These are the resort of innumerable pilgrims, who journey thither to pray for some special blessing for themselves and their families, or to be healed of some disease, or perhaps in fulfilment of a vow. Sidi-Okba, who gave his name to the oasis south of Biskra, was a warrior of the seventh century. At his tomb the maimed and the stricken still congregate at all seasons, while it is the abode in particular of blind beggars and lepers. Many are the prayers uttered by the Mussulman pilgrims at that great

tomb, which bears these words upon one of its pillars, inscribed in Kufic characters: "Hada kobr Okba ibn Nafê rhamah Allah" ("this is the tomb of Okba, son of Nafê, whom God in His mercy receive"!)

A word must be said about the blind musicians of the bazaars and nomad tents. One may see them sitting in the market-place of Biskra or by the roadside in the dusty waste of Sidi-Okba, as well as in the shadowy darkness of the Cafés Maures. Often they play that others may dance, and the thin plaintive sound of the Arab music seems to form a soft accompaniment to all the other sounds of the oasis. Indeed, it must remain always associated in one's mind with the hot African days and the moonlit African nights. The instruments are very primitive, the favourite being the gezbah, a kind of flute open at bot, ends and usually ornamented with an engraved decorative pattern stained red. The taar is made something after the fashion of a sieve, and consists of a thin hoop ct wood over which is stretched a skin of parchment; it is said to resemble very closely the tympanum of the ancients, and corresponds in form to those sometimes seen in the hands of statues representing the priests of Cybele. The gheita is a flute with a mouthpiece, the tobol is a tambourine. How skilfully the long fingers manipulate these rudeinstruments, producing a kind of savage, desolate, yet wistful music—the music of the desert, of the nomad's douar, of the sheltered, palm-grown oasis! white arcades of the Biskra market-place you can hear such music throbbing always in the background, half drowned by the babel of voices, the barking of dogs, the low remonstrating snarl of the camel. Here are the Arabs playing endless games of rhonda and draughts; here, too, are the fortune-tellers, the story-tellers, relating to the insatiable interest of their hearers the legends of the Thousand and One Nights. Upon the stalls are displayed a strange medley of eastern and western commodities and merchandise. Turkish embroideries, Persian jewellery, native rugs, necklaces of beads, and curios, the little mirrors in frames of embroidered leather which the Arab women wear suspended round their waists, wooden couscous, spoons, native instruments and long scarves of net and

sequins. Here, too, are piles of dried locusts, esteemed a delicacy by the Arabs; masses of golden oranges, lumps of blackened dates; baskets of galette and of the flat pale Arab bread. Breadfruit, oil and honey—the Arabs need little more than these to sustain life.

The words of the wise man, Sidi Mohammed-ou-Allal, came back to me as I watched the busy little scene: "A free man if he is grasping, is a slave; the slave is free if he lives on little. Choose tents to repose in; nourish yourself with the fruits of the earth; satisfy your thirst with running water; you will leave the world in peace." For sunshine robs poverty of half its sting, and well may these simple dwellers in tents echo the words of the beautiful Russian woman, Isabelle Eberhardt, who for many years led a wandering life in the oases of the Sahara, meeting her death at last in the floods of Ain-Sefra: "Beaux jours de sable et de soleil! Je me sentais immor-telle et si riche dans ma pauvreté"! (Beautiful days of sand and sun! I felt I was immortal, and rich in my poverty!" I CLARKE.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE EDITION OF THE WORKS OF BRITISH BLIND COMPOSERS

the first list of twenty-four compositions, fifteen are already published and it is hoped that the remaining nine will be out by the end of the year. The royalty returns which have just come to hand from Messrs. Ryalls and Jones for the first six months ending September 30th, point to the fact that the Edition is creating interest all over the country. In spite of the fact that matters have been exceptionally quiet in the music trade and also that a great many of the pieces above referred to have only been issued recently—about 1,800 copies have been sold and many of the numbers have appeared on various recital programmes. Among these may be specially mentioned, "Minuet Antique" by Watling, which has been played by Mr. Balfour at the Albert Hall, by Dr. Programment of Windows (Cal.). Prendergast at Winchester Cathedral, by Mr. Meale at Central Hall, Westminster, by Lieut. Weale, Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, etc.

The Edition, which is on view at the National Institute, has been stocked by

a large number of dealers throughout the country, and schemes are now on foot for giving Concerts and Recitals at which this music will be performed. Among these may be noted a series of five recitals by blind organists at St. Clement Dane's, Strand, London, on Wednesdays at 1.10 p.m., the recitalists being as follows:-

Nov. 2nd.—Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus., Bac., L.R.A.M., F.R.C.O., with Mr.

Sinclair Logan as Vocalist.

Nov. oth.—Mr. Sydney Jones, A.R.C.O. Nov. 16th.—Mr. Sinclair Logan, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., F.R.C.O.; Vocal-ist, Mr. F. H. Etchieverr's.

Nov. 23rd.—Rev. H. E. C. Lewis, M.A..

F.R.C.O.

Nov. 30th.—Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., with Mr. Ernest Littlewood as Vocalist.

We shall be hapov to supply catalogues of the new Edition to all those who may be able to distribute them.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE

BLIND HE special committee which has inquired into the scheme for the welfare of the blind in the administrative area of the London County Council has approved the suggestion for setting up a Central Council. It is proposed that that there should be one representative of each of the nineteen institutions concerned; not more than six persons, selected by the London County Council, with special knowledge of the needs of the blind; the chairman and vice-chairman of the special committee of the London County Council dealing with the welfare of the blind; and representatives appointed by the Minister of Health, the Board of Education, and the Royal College of Surgeons. The duties of the Central Council will be to advise the London County Council, and especially to secure co-operation bewteen the various bodies.—Times.

ACOLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF BLIND GIRLS has recently been opened under the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind at The Cedars, Chorley Wood, Herts, where blind and partially blind pupils receive a first-class specialised education. There are vacancies at the College and full particulars as to the curriculum, fees, etc. can be obtained from the Headmistress, Miss PHYLLIS MONK, M A., at the above address.

A WELCOME HOME

HEARTY "welcome home" has been accorded to Mr. Alec Kirstein on his return to South Africa after training as a masseur at St. Dunstan's Hostel and the National Institute for the Blind. Mr. Kirstein surcessfully qualified at the examinations of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics in June-July, 1921, and has now left England in order to take up his profession in his own country. The following account of his visit to Worcester, South Africa, has been sent us by the St. Dunstan's Guild in that town:—

On September 17th, upon the occasion of Mr. Alec Kirstein's visit to Worcester a reception was given by the committee of the Guild to welcome him to South Africa. The programme was arranged by Mr. Greenwood, and at the close of a really delightful evening Mr. Kirstein gave an intensely interesting account of life at St. Dunstan's and the course of training he—now a fully qualified mas-seur—has just completed. It would be difficult to express the feeling of deep gratitude felt by all present, when on this occasion more than ever before they realised what St. Dunstan's had done for him and for all our young blinded South Africans.

The following Monday Mr. Greenwood gave his Annual Concert in aid of St. Dunstan's-this was an unqualified success, and the small Town Hall was filled with a most enthusiastic audience. The following is the programme: -

Part 1.

1. Piano Solo-Valse in A flat, Op. 34, No. 1. Chopin. Mr. Harry Greenwood.

"Mother Mine" Lewis Barnes. Song

Miss Helen Bain. Musical Monologue Selected

Mr. Alec Kirstein.
"Friend" C. Novello Davies. Song

Mrs. A. Webb Richards. Solo "La Truite" Schubert, Heller. Piano Solo Miss Helen Greenwood.

Song "For the Green" Herman Lohr. Mrs. Melck.

7. Musical Monologue-

"The Street Watchman's Story" Capt. Webb Richards.

Interval.

Part 2. (a) "Abends" 8. Piano Solo (b) "Valse-Impromptu" Liszt.

Mr. Harry Greenwood. "Life and Death" Coleridge Taylor. Song.

Mrs. Melck.

10. Musical Monologue Selected.

Mr. Kirstein.
11. Piano Solo (a) "Carillon" Norman O'Neill. (b) "Noel" Balfour Gardiner.

Mr. Harry Greenwood. "Happy Summer Song" Song

Gerald F. Kahn.

Mrs. A. Webb Richards.

13. Musical Monologue "The Colonel" Capt. Webb Richards.

14. Piano Solo—
"Andante Molto in C"
"Sonata (Grieg. Finale in E minor from Sonata Op. 7. Mr. Harry Greenwood. GOD SAVE THE KING

Accompanist MRS. MELHUISH.

BLIND PEOPLE IN INDIA

M R. MONTAGUE, answering a question in the House of Commons recently, said that at the census of 1911 there were registered 175,214 blind males and 173,133 blind females in British India. He said that there was no special legislation for their treatment and care nor had the need for such legislation become apparent.

Dispensaries, stationary and travelling, are available throughout British India, where treatment is given gratuitously to all poor persons and cataract and other eye operations form one of the largest and most widely appreciated branches of their work. In the United Provinces, for example, 12,326 in-patients and 501,220 out-patients were treated for eye diseases during the year 1010.

WE learn that a blind masseur, Mr. A. Cohen, recently won a first prize at a whist drive held at Sutton. Mr. Cohen is stated to be a regular whist player, and as accomplished in ball-room dancing as he is in card-playing. He uses Braille cards, and follows the game so closely that he has surprised an opponent by detecting him in a "revoke."

ONE of our great objects in life should be to learn to pity other people instead of pitying ourselves.—Dyolf.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind SEPTEMBER, 1921 FICTION. "Anon." Patricia Brent-Spinster 4 vols. Bagot, R. House of Serravalle ... 6 vols. 5 vols. 2 vols. Madame Thérèse Harris-Burland, J. B. White Rook ... 3 vols. 3 vols. Hay, Ian. Knight on Wheels 5 vols Merrick, L. Position of Peggy Harper ... Page, Gertrude. Paddy the Next Best Thing 6 vols. Orczy, Baroness. Legion of Honour ... 6 vols. Pearce, H. Navy Book of Fairy Tales ... Penny, F. R. Desire and Delight 5 vols. Philipotts, Eden. Orphan Dinah ... 6 vols. Rhodes, K. City of Palms ... 6 vols. Vachell, H. A. Soul of Susan Yellam ... 4 vols. MISCELLANEOUS. B. W. Freedom (pub. Oxford University 1 vol. Beazley, R., N. Forbes, and G. A. Birkett Russia (from the Varangians to the Bolsheviks) Bennett, A. The Title (a play) Birrell, A. William Hazlitt 2 vols. 4 vols. Blackwood, A. Garden of Survival ... *Brown, P. Hume. History of Scotland A.D. 80-1688, in continuation) Bruce, W. S. Polar Exploration Burke, Edmund. Reflections on the Revolution in France (E. W. Austin Memorial Fund) 9 vols Chesterton, G. K. All Things Considered Eucken, R. Life's Basis and Life's Ideal 3 vols. Fabre, J. H. Story book of Birds and 3 vols. Beasts Farthing, F. H. Saturday in my Garden 4 vols. (abridged) *Golding, Vautier. Story of Livingstone Grayson, David. Great Possessions ... 2 vols. 2 vols. *Hamilton, Mary H. Story of Abraham 2 vols. Lincoln Huddy, Mrs. M. E. Matilda, Countess of 6 vols. 3 vols. *Lang, Andrew. Story of Joan of Arc ... Leadbeater, C. W. Other Side of Death *Marshall, H. E. Story of Napoleon ... 2 vols. Mill, J. S. Utilitarianism 2 vols. Moore, D. and F. G. Guggisberg. We Two in West Africa Murray, Gilbert. Four Stages of the 6 vols. Greek Religion (E. W. Austin Memorial Fund) *Peddie, J. R. British Citizen 3 vols. 3 vols. Pollard, A. F. History of England (E.

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3 vols.

SPECIAL recreation ground, on which the blind can play games is to be provided at Heaton Park by Manchester Parks Committee for the Manchester Blind Social Club. The games will include cricket. The blind players will use a basket ball, and it is essential, in the interests of sound, that the ground should be apart from other grounds, because with a basket ball the sense of hearing of the players will enable them to locate the ball. The Chairman of the Committee (Alderman Fox), with Melland and Councillor Councillor Matthewson Watson, is to select a suitable secluded space for the purpose in Heaton Park.

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the October Numbers

Progress.—King Edward VII (Part II)—Quaint Indian Rites—The Charcoal Burner (Poem), by Edmund Gosse—La Fontaine—Garden Notes (October)—The Romance of Christic's—Newspaper Work for the Blind—Matters of the Moment—Our Prize Competitions—"Stone Age" Men in 1921—The Night Watch—The Question Box—Chess—Our Home Page—Advertisements.

The Literary Journal.—A Night in Town—The War Criminals' Trials—Primitive Economics—Unchanging England—Watches for the Blind—Recent Additions to the Massage Library—Industrial Disputes and their Lessons—Dr. Johnson's Ignorance of Dante.

School Magazine.—A Legend of Reading Abbey (IV) by C. Macfarlane (to be continued)—Abraham Lincoln —The Story of Words (II) from the "Children's Encyclopædia"—London's Water Supply in the 16th Century—Biography in Brief: Mark Twain—The Aborigines of Australia—Higher Education for the Blind—Mosquitoes and Microbes, by Ernest Bryant—Queries—Coal—The Jungle Postman.

Comrades.—The Adventures of Don Quixote (III) from the "Children's Encyclopædia"—Golden Corn, by H. Waddingham Seers—The Story of William Tell—The Magic Penny (Grade I), by Madeline Barnes (concluded)—Kitty's Number Lesson (Poem)—Puzzles—Answers to Last Month's Puzzles—Roxie.

Braille Musical Magazine. — The Teaching or Harmony—Hints on the Preparation of Musical Manuscript intended for Publication (II) — The National Institute for the Blind Edition—Correspondence—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—National Union of Organists Association—Musicat the National Institute for the Blind—Musical Journalism—Supplement: Braille Musical Reviews—Insets: Piano, "Venetian Boat Song," by Logan; Organ, "Toccata in D minor," by Osborn.

Channels of Blessing.—Editorial Notes and Notices— The Burning Heart—A Bridge of Song—The World opened day by day—The Chariot of Fire—Across Life's Way—Our Letter from India—Pastor Hng— Answer to Question—A Little Bird I am—Gleanings— Prayer Union—With Christ in the School of Prayer. The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.—The Physiology of Muscle Tone, by R. G. Gordon, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P. Ed.—Some Notes on the Uses of Electrical Treatment in Orthopædic Surgery, by W. Rowley Bristow, F.R.C.S. (to be continued) — Official Notices.

A. C. B. M. Journal. — Editorial — Encephalitis Lethargica (conclusion)—Evolutionary Wounds (to be continued)—Notes on High Frequency—Special Notices. — Scientific Massage versus Ineffectual Rubbing.

The Hampstead Magazine—Hilda's Hidden Hand, by A. G. Greenwood—Building Battleships, by Tarpaulin—The Cruise of the "Quest"—Fiction v. Fact—From War "Scrap" to Steel—London's Traffic Wizard—"Why's" of Wireless—Who's Who—and Why.

Santa Lucia.—To Our Readers: concerning the New Serial—A Source of Irritation, by Stacy Aumonier—What it Costs to be King—Chinese Race begins a new Career—Fires which Cost £3,000 to Light.

Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mine of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.



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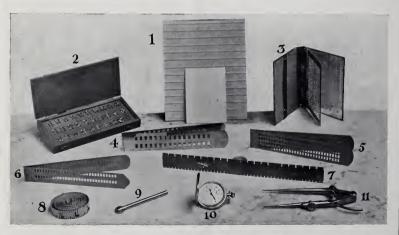
HOME OF REST FOR THE BLIND, Caswell Hill, Mumbles, Glamorgan.— Applications for admission to the above Home will be received by the Hon. Secretary, JOSEPH HALL, Grosvenor House, Swansca.

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OL. V.—No. 60.

DECEMBER, 1921.



A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



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THE ECONOMICS OF INDUSTRY. II

"The fundamental equation of the orthodox political economist is that the value of everything is proportionate to its cost."—(Prof. Leacock.)



S we write, we have before us a comprehensive list of the Workshops for the Blind in England and Wales, together with particulars of average wages earned and the supplements that are being paid.

It would not be competent for us here to use such figures, illuminating as they are, for

our primary business in these articles is to examine basic principles and not to worry the reader with a mass of ever-changing statistics. Some of the conclusions at which we have arrived have been irresistibly forced upon us by the publication of recent data, however, and that is the reason for the reference we have made to this compilation.

It will be quite apparent that no serious contribution can be made to the solution of the labour problem as it affects the Blind community, unless we pay much more careful attention to its econ-

omic aspects than has heretofore been devoted to them, and in consequence of that consideration any opinions here expressed have been reached only after much deliberation. It is not claimed that they will at once evoke popular appreciation—they have not been written from that point of view. The sole desire by which we have been actuated is a wish to state clearly some of the present difficulties and to find an answer to them along scientific lines.

If we may be permitted to quote Professor Leacock once more we would say; "It is the restriction of individualism by the force of organisation and by legislation that has brought to the world whatever social advance has been achieved by the great mass of the people." That generalisation represents our considered opinion, and the subject is approached with such a concept ever before us.

Rather more than a year ago, we published an essay "A Minimum Income for all Blind Workers." Much of what we then wrote would have to be modified or entirely deleted if the task of revision had to be undertaken by us to-day, and this because of informative recent experi-

ences and a more intimate knowledge of

prevailing industrial conditions.

Most Institutions for the Blind cannot face the problem of providing a substantial minimum wage by reason of very limited resources. This fact has become very apparent during the past few months. Those who have essayed the task are experiencing an infinitude of difficulties, for it is very certain that the economic limits of voluntary charity have nearly been reached.

Of course, it is a comparatively easy matter to suggest that where voluntaryism has failed the State should unreservedly come to the rescue, but surely we are not justified in calling upon such resources until it has been clearly established that the very best use is already being made of the material wealth at our disposalwealth that is the creative result of our own applied energies-wealth that is the contribution which each individual must make towards the well-being of that organisation which we call "society." after being satisfied that we are making the fullest contribution of which we are capable a deficiency is revealed, then those who are bearing a handicap which limits their productivity have a just and reasonable claim upon the community.

There is a school of thought which assumes the right of certain individuals to make maximum demands upon society, irrespective of their own ability or dispositions to make maximum efforts to provide for their own needs, but this is a phase of practical politics which will not commend itself to the man or woman who is endowed with a reasonable amount of commonsense. No State possesses inexhaustible wealth. Applied labour must be available to secure every material necessity, and by this process of reasoning it goes without saying that an obligation rests upon every individual to make the fullest contribution of which he is capable, in order to lighten generally a duty which none are free to evade. There are no short cuts to the Eldorado which most of us dreamed of in the years of adolescence,-no royal road to real progress. The way is difficult and beset with many impediments.

To come to the immediately practical issues before us, three propositions are suggested, the development of which will place in clear relief some of the basic ideas which have suggested the substance of these articles.

(1). We are convinced that the output of the blind worker is to-day unnecessarily low owing to the fact that a very large number of persons are placed in workshops who possess neither real productive capacity nor aptitude for the job assigned to them. Not only is productivity registered at a low level, but the cost of supervision is high, while the trade turnover is proportionately small and the profits therefore microscopical. this proposition then we draw the obvious and logical deduction that prior to admission being granted to workshops, there should not only be an efficiency test but there should also be a standard of productivity test. This would lighten the incidence of cost all round and render it possible to deal reasonably and equitably with the wage problem, for the actual labour value would bear some reasonable relationship to output. Inefficiency by reason of the handicap of blindness stands at a much higher index figure than we are usually inclined to admit.

We are not suggesting in this connection that anyone is particularly to blame, neither those who are responsible for the management of our industrial undertakings, nor those who owing to economic compulsion must seek a livelihood in such establishments. A variety of causes are operating to produce the result, and in our judgment the evolution of industry for the Blind has at present only reached such a stage as to reveal the evils to which we call attention. That they are remediable is certain, but the remedy can best be provided in multiplying our industrial occupations and thereby providing the facilities for the exercise of individual capacity.

There has not been nearly sufficient research work done in the sphere of industry for the Blind, and that in a large measure accounts for the almost stereotyped groove in which we are at present moving, and that so unsatisfactorily.

We are often tempted to think Spencer's dictum particularly applicable to us in this connection. "There is no political alchemy by which you can get golden conduct from leaden instincts." We have stupidly assumed that we could make an efficient basket-maker, mat-maker brush-maker when the subject of our at-

tention shows no marked capacity for any one of the occupations selected, and at the best is never destined to make anything more than a mediocre workman. Invariably we have failed to recognise that capacity and inclination play a most important rôle in the life and conduct of the future workman, and much of the failure that confronts us is due to these considerations. We do not accept as a valid reason the statement that such is necessarily due to the handicap of blindness. When all reasonable allowances are made, the fact remains that by the development of initiative, the expansion of our spheres of employment, and the exercise in consequence of a wider choice of occupation, a very much higher status in industry and business is attainable by the Blind both individually and collectively.

It is certain that the present rate of basis of such production represent too low a proportion of the cash values paid weekly in the form of a wage bill by the authorities of Institutions for the Blind. Indeed, an examination of the facts shows very clearly that real wages represent but a small item of the total cost, and there is a positive danger of our industrial system degenerating into an arrangement under which our Institutions become nothing more nor less than mere

relief stations. All sane people are exceedingly anxious to avoid this, and to do so we must establish a clear line of demarcation between philanthropy and business. Surely we must aim at the maximum of production with the minimum of effort, and a corresponding minimum of relief, and to do this we must essentially extend the sphere of operations and provide infinitely. greater and more easily accessible facilities for both training and employment. The earning of real wages should be the paramount consideration, and upon this object we must concentrate much more seriously in the future.

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ONE of the features of this year's Lord Mayor's Show was a representation of the work of St. Dunstan's. In one car were to be seen blinded soldiers making baskets, in another car mat-making was in progress.

A.C.B.M. DINNER

THE Third Annual Dinner of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs was held in the King's Room of Pagani's Restaurant on Monday evening, November 14th. The President of the Association, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart, G.B.E., was in the Chair, and amongst the Vice-Presidents (who include many of the most eminent medical men of the day) were present:—Major W. H. Broad, T.D., M.D., B.S., Colonel E. L. Gowlland, D.S.O., T.D., M.B., Mr. W. G. Howarth, M.B., F.R.C.S., Dr. Murray Levick, Mr. Cortlandt MacMahon, M.A., Colonel Mansell Moullin, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S., Colonel B. E. Myers, C.M.G., M.D., Major A. W. Ormond, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., Colonel H. W. Tubby, C.B., C.M.G., M.S.

The gathering was a very successful and representative one, the members present including soldiers blinded in the war and trained in massage at St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind, and civilian masseurs and masseuses trained under the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind. The excellent musical programme was provided by the members themselves.

A BLIND M.P.

BY-ELECTION which has been held in Auckland East has resulted in the return of the Government candidate, Mr. Clutha Mackenzie, son of the late High Commissioner for New Zealand. Mr. Mackenzie lost his sight in Gallipoli and was for some time an inmate of the Officers' Quarters of St. Dunstan's, where he learnt Braille and typewriting. A short time ago we had the pleasure of reviewing his book, "The Tale of a Trooper," in these pages, and it will further be remembered that he was the editor of that bright little paper, "The Chronicles of the N.Z.E.F." The New Zealanders who lost their sight in the war are the objects of Mr. Mackenzie's care and attention. He visits those within reach, keeps them in touch with one another by means of a monthly news sheet, and helps them in every way possible.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Mackenzie's Labour opponent was also an ex-soldier, who had lost an arm.

MUSIC OF BLIND COMPOSERS

HE music correspondent of "The Times" has written in that paper

as follows:-

"Some months ago particulars were published in "The Times" of a scheme undertaken by the National Institute for the Blind to publish music by blind com-posers in a way which would be profitable to the composers and useful to the general public. We have received now some specimens of the National Institute's edition of piano and organ pieces, with a few songs by various composers, brought out in a neat uniform style and published for the Institute by Ryalls and Jones, Limited, 224, Great Portland Street, W.

The first thing to be noticed about these works is the point of view from which they are put forward. The Institute presents them under "a scheme for the encouragement of British musical art"; although it naturally confines the edition to the work of blind men, it is as artists that they are considered, and the names of the Institute's musical director, Mr. H. C. Warrilow, and of its music publications adviser, Mr. Edward Watson, are given on the title-pages in guarantee of the standard. The claim is, we think, well justified. Not all the pieces are equally interesting, or, indeed, strikingly original, but all are musical, clear, and simple in expression, and bear the stamp of sincerity. Teachers of the piano should certainly make a point of examining this edition, for they will find in it a number of graceful ideas involving useful technical practice. Some of them might very suitably be used as test pieces for competitions or junior examinations.

It is perhaps a little surprising at first to find how frequently these composers make use of pictorial titles. Mr. Horace Watling, for instance, contributes "Ten Poetic Fancies" on such subjects as "An Evening Landscape," "The Firefly," Rustic Revel"; they have an interest beyond that of similar pieces by composers with sight, since they represent a more directly imaginative effort. Indeed, there is considerable imagination in Mr. Watling's work. On a larger scale, how-ever, is a "Sketch, suggested by the flight of an aeroplane" also for a piano solo by Hubert G. Oke. It is the aeroplane interpreted in terms of the Stephen Heller study, but the composer has a thorough

command of that type of piano technique, and the idea is worked out into a charming piece of perpetual movement until, with a graceful nose-dive, the aeroplane

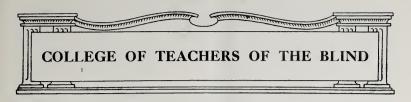
drops to earth.

Mr. William Wolstenholme is the most generally known among these composers, and his "Noël," which embroiders a little bell figure of four notes with fanciful melodies, adds distinction to the series. There are others which might be mentioned, but enough has been said to suggest that those who are on the look-out for pleasant music for the Christmas holidays may find what they want by turning to the National Institute's edition of the works of British blind composers.



WE learn from the annual letter sent out by the Braille Missionary Union that at an educational exhibition, the first of its kind ever held at Kienning, China, the chief centre of interest consisted in a Braille volume of Geog-"I can picture now," writes cur correspondent, "an ever-increasing crowd of reading men gathered round one of our big girls. I told her to read a passage, so that people would know what the pricked paper meant. She read away, unconscious of the crowd and of the interest displayed, just as naturally as if she had been teaching a Geography class. The men were struck dumb, but afterwards in the streets I heard them telling others about it. "Out of what Kingdom comes this cleverness," said they, "that blind people can read and do things as if their eyes could see!"

THE "Eyes to the Blind" Society.— The 16th annual Report of this society forms a year's record of admirable work. During the period under review seven blind workers were employed at the workshops themselves and five blindhomeworkers. There were sold: -917 ladies' and children's jersey coats, 152 jerseys, 117 pairs of stockings and socks, 27 scarves, and considerably over 1,000 other articles, whilst the sum of £1,826 was realised. The wages paid during the vear to blind workers amounted to £546, whilst the sum of £700 was expended in wages paid to sighted persons.





HE next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held on May 30th and 31st, 1922, at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, N.W. Candidates must send in their applications to the Hon. Registrar of the College, so as to reach him on or before April 18th, 1922. Applications must be accompanied by the exam-

ination fee, testimonials of character, and evidence of eligibility. The Committee reserve the right to refuse any application without assigning a reason for so doing. Forms of application can be obtained from the Hon. Registrar, c/o National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Port-

land Street, W.1.

For the benefit of those readers who are unacquainted with the aims of the College, we would briefly state that it was established fourteen years ago, with the object of raising the status of teachers of the blind, of giving them an opportunity of submitting their qualifications to the scrutiny and judgment of an accredited examining body, and of generally raising the tone and character of the instruction of the blind. The subjects for examination include a theoretical and practical knowledge of Braille, arithmetic for the blind, the practice of teaching, and the theory of education as applied to the blind, together with one other subject to be selected by the candidate from the following subjects:-

Infant teaching, physical training and recreation, Braille music, typewriting, Braille shorthand, centre cane work, chair caning, woodwork, hand sewing, hand knitting, machine sewing, machine knit-

ting (round machine only).

(It should be noted that physical training and recreation are now treated as one subject, whereas they formerly appeared under two separate headings.)

A fee of 21s. will be charged each candidate for the first examination, and 5s. for each subject at any subsequent examination, with a maximum fee of 10s. 6d. for each subsequent examination. Candidates failing to present themselves for the examination will forfeit the fee paid, unless their reasons for absence are satisfactory to the Committee. Sixty per cent. of marks in any subject will secure a "Pass," and 80 per cent. "Hon-ours." The certificates granted by the College will specify the subjects in which the candidates have satisfied the examiners, and those in which "Honours" have been obtained. All apparatus is supplied by the college, except that of a special character, but candidates are recommended to provide their own.

It is probable that some persons already qualified as teachers of sighted children might like to become certificated teachers of the blind. In that event they should pay a visit to a local school for the blind, where they could gain a good idea of the special methods which are in use in schools for the blind. They should also communicate with the Hon. Registrar, from whom full particulars and a syllabus of examination can be obtained. Copies of previous examination papers can also be obtained from the Hon. Regiscant

trar, post free 6d. per set.

The following are eligible to sit for examination:—

(a) Candidates holding Elementary Teachers' Certificate, or its equivalent.
(b) Candidates who are recognised

by the Board of Education, as Uncertificated Teachers.

(c) Candidates who hold the Higher Certificate of the National Froebel Union.

(d) Candidates otherwise recognised as teachers by the Board of Education.

(e) Other Candidates whose status as teachers may satisfy the College.

We regret to learn that Mr. Henry G. Wilson has resigned the Chairmanship of the Committee on his retirement from all work for the blind. Mr. Wilson, with the late Hon. Arthur M. Kinnaird and Mr. Henry Stainsby, is one of the original trustees of the college, and he has acted as the chairman of the Council and of the Committee since its inauguration. Miss M. M. R. Garraway, F.C. T.B., has been appointed chairman. She has rendered signal services to the college, having been a member of its Committee from its foundation and examiner since 1909. Miss Garraway is a recognised authority on all matters pertaining to the education of the blind.

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WE take the liberty of re-printing the following letter which appeared in the Daily Despatch of November 15th:—Sir,—Your New York correspondent

sends an interesting instance of an assailant who shot a blind man being identified

by the sound of his footsteps.

Quite apart from its prevalence among the blind, who, being deprived of one sense, super-develop the others to take its place. I think that what might be called the "footsteps sense" is not as uncommon as some people seem to imagine.

An old lady I once knew recognised the footsteps of her sailor son when he walked up the path to her cottage after

an absence of 10 years.

At one time my husband worked at night, and I used to awake whenever he turned off the main road into the street in which our house was situated. This was not a case of awaking by habit at one time every night, for owing to the nature of his duties the times of his return would vary by as much as two to three hours in one week.

My sub-conscious self during sleep must have recognised his footsteps, but I doubt if I should have known them so

unerringly had I been awake.

Dogs, of course, have this "footsteps sense' highly developed. Very few dogs mistake their masters' walk. E. M. B.

It would be extremely interesting to hear our readers' views on the subject alluded to by this correspondent as the "footsteps sense."

THE BLIND GIRL'S PRAYER

O H! God, let there be light, Restore my precious sight If it may be, To see this wondrous world, Its beauteous flowers unfurled In praise of Thee.

But should it be Thy will,
Darkness must ever fill
Each live-long day.
Let me Thy presence feel
Each evening when I kneel
And to Thee pray.

Let those still blessed with sight,
Be led to do the right
For those still blind;
Though it be always night
Our world is made more bright
When friends are kind.

From Whom all blessings flow, Grant to us here below Strength to achieve Each day some useful work, Let us no duty shirk, Help us believe.

Though this world seems unkind,
Thou wilt protect the blind,
And grant them love.
By faith, we know that we
One day will surely see,
In heaven above.

Help me to patient be,
And bow to Thy decree,
Thy will be done.
Till I reach realms of light,
Where blind receive their sight,
Thy Kingdom come. "Patrius."
Brisbane.

THE HEAD MISTRESS of one of the L.C.C. Schools for Blind Children, having decided to take her pupils to St. Paul's Cathedral, asked the National Institute for the Blind to lend her a model of it, as this was the only means by which her scholars could get a correct knowledge of the outward form of the relative positions of the great masses of the building they were about to visit.

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The Institute was able from its "Models Department" to send a fine copy of St. Paul's in miniature which will fully

serve the purpose.



THE following letter on the subject of the Blind and Smoking was contributed to the *Lancet* by Sir Arthur Pearson:—

Sir,—There is a very general idea that blind people are quite incapable of enjoying tobacco. I always imagine this idea arises from the fact that when a smoker who can see is smoking in a train which plunges into a tunnel he quite loses his sense of appreciation for the brief period during which he is in darkness.

Some years ago I used to travel very frequently through the long Merstham tunnel, and I remember having, over and over again, looked at the end of my cigar

to make sure it was alight.

The failure to appreciate tobacco in the dark undoubtedly arises from the fact that sight is not only the most useful of the senses, but is the dominating sense, asserting itself over all the others. Once this dominating influence is lost the other senses assert their individuality and carry on their functions independently of their former master. I smoked a great deal before my sight left me. I smoke a great deal still, and I am pretty sure that I enjoy my pipe or cigar more than I used to. Though it is, of course, true that a blind man misses the delightful sight of the curling smoke, his increased appreciation of the flavour of tobacco in my opinion more than makes up for this. The men of St. Dunstan's who smoke-that is to say, the vast majority of St. Dunstaners-would, I am certain, almost unanimously agree with me, and so would many blind civilian smokers whom I know. A pipe-smoker keeps his pipe going very largely by the sense of sight, and at first pipe-smoking without the aid of this sense is apt to result in the constant letting out of the pipe or the smoking of it so furiously that the bowl gets almost red-hot. But this is only a phase, as are many other things which people do clumsily when their sight first leaves them, but in the case of which practice makes

perfect.

With regard to the popularity of various kinds of smoking among blind people, I should say that the pipe is the least popular, probably for the reason that I have just given. Cigarettes, of course, are the most popular form of smoking among the blind, as they are among the rest of the population. Those who care for cigars, and can afford them, find just as much pleasure in them as others do in the pipe or cigarette.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,
ARTHUR PEARSON.
St. Dunstan's, November 11th, 1921.

THAT the museums of the city might be utilised for the education of the blind was the suggestion put forward by the curator at a meeting of the Belfast Library Committee recently. If adopted, this suggestion, he said, would be particularly beneficial to young people who had been born blind. The idea of familiarising the sightless with objects and animals had proved elsewhere successful. The suggestion met with the sympathetic approval of the Committee, and the arrangements for carrying it into effect were left in the hands of Mr. Deans.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND in Great Portland Street has for sale a variety of games (chess, draughts, dominoes, card-games, etc.), as well as apparatus for the use of the blind, also a variety of Christmas Cards, supplied with suitable greetings in Braille or Moon. Braille and Moon calendars are also obtainable. Anyone who wishes to do so may choose his or her own brief Christmas message to be inscribed on Christmas cards in Braille or Moon type.

THE OPENING OF HOOLE BANK



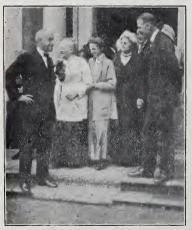
N the spacious hall of Hoole Bank, Chester, there hangs the portrait of a youthful officer. Below is an inscription which reads as follows:

"This residence and grounds, twenty-three acres in extent, were presented to the National Institute for the Blind, by Mr. and Mrs. George W. Haves,

to perpetuate the memory of their son, Lieutenant Harry Urmson Hayes, of the 1st Battalion, the Black Watch, who was killed in action in

France, aged 10."

The story of this young life, sacrificed for the sake of others, must have been vivid in the minds of those who, on November 4th, witnessed the formal opening of Hoole Bank as a guest-house for elderly blind persons of reduced circumstances.



AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was performed by Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., President of the National Institute for the Blind, who was accompanied by Mr. G. F. Mowatt, a member of the Executive Council, and Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General of the Institute.

The opening prayers having been said by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, Sir Arthur Pearson addressed the gathering. He said that the National Institute for the Blind regarded with the utmost pleasure this addition to the list of their activi-The fates had accorded him a very unusual opportunity, perhaps the greatest opportunity ever given to a human being. During the eight years which had passed since his own sight failed him he had come into personal and intimate contact with the whole of the men of the Imperial Forces who lost their sight in the war: he knew the blind girls at Chorley Wood. the blind boys at Worcester, and the blind employees at the National Institute for the Blind, and the whole of his experience went to tell him that, provided one had a heart of courage, fortitude and resolution, blindness itself did not matter very much. He did think that blindness, when accompanied by failing health, old age and reduced circumstances, might probably become a grim tragedy, and it was from the incidence of that grim tragedy that Hoole Bank hoped to save many elderly blind people as they went towards the grave. It seemed to him pathetic, yet peculiarly fitting, that Hoole Bank should for all time remain as a memorial of a gallant boy. Sir Arthur went on to say that although a great many difficulties had naturally presented themselves in transforming a private house into a guest-house, he thought that all who saw it that day would agree that it had been charmingly adapted for the purpose which it was henceforth to serve. There was accommodation for twentyeight guests, and at present they had nineteen inmates at the Home.

On their behalf he thanked all those who were doing so much to make their lives bright and happy, and in so doing he made individual reference to the personal services freely given by the chaplain, the Rev. J. H. Toogood the medical officer, Dr. Giffen, and to a large number of others who, by gifts and personal services, had contributed to the comfort and enjoyment of the guests. (A full list of these benefactors was read by the Secretary-General.) In conclusion Sir Arthur said that he wished he could adequately express the gratitude which he felt, from his own soul, not only as President of the National Institute for the Blind, but also as a man without sight, to Mr. and Mrs. Haves for their very generous gift. Having formally declared the guest-house to be open. Sir Arthur read a telegram which he proposed sending to Mr. and Mrs. Hayes as follows: "On the occasion of the opening of Hoole Bank. the President and Council of the National Institute, and the blind guests, send Mr. and Mrs. Hayes greeting and grateful thanks for the gift of this lovely home, presented in memory of their beloved and gallant son."

Mr. Mowatt, who gave an interesting survey of the manifold activities of the National Institute for the Blind, said that Hoole Bank would do a very great service to those refined and educated people who, handicapped by blindness.

were bound to feel their position very acutely. He felt that day that Sir Arthur and the National Institute had made the best addition possible to their work, and he was grateful to have Hoole Bank under his special care, as it were, in the same way that he was responsible for Worcester College, The Cedars and the Women's homes.

Mr. Scott, one of the residents of Hoole Bank, then gave expression to the gratitude which he and his fellow-residents felt to Sir Arthur Pearson and his colleagues, and requested them to convey a message of thanks to the members of the Council of the National Institute. He also thanked the ladies and gentlemen of Chester for their kindness. Mr. Scott said that he had been among the first of the guests received at Hoole Bank, and they could all say that from the moment they had entered Hoole Bank they had met with nothing but kindness and consideration at the hands of the superintendents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee. Nothing was taken as a trouble, and the smallest request, within reason, was, if possible, granted. His earnest wish and prayer was that they might long be spared to preside over them. He trusted that Hoole Bank would have a happy, long, and prosperous career.

The Bishop of Chester spoke feelingly and with great appreciation of the revolution effected by Sir Arthur Pearson in



HOOLE BANK

methods of caring for the blind. He expressed the deepest satisfaction at the opening of the guest-house, and assured the guests of the great interest which the citizens of Chester would take in them.

A large number of visitors from Chester, Manchester, Liverpool, and the surrounding districts, including many well-known workers among the blind, were present, and all expressed great pleasure at this new feature of the Institute's work and gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Hayes for

its initiation.

The tonic value of beautiful surroundings and their influence on the blind have often been insisted upon in these pages. That the loss of evesight does not entail lack of appreciation of the beautiful has been fully realised in the case of Hoole Bank. The walls are adorned with tasteful wallpapers, the dining-room filled with plants and flowers and snowy napery, the bedrooms gay with bright coverlets and patterned curtains. Furthermore, the guests have at their disposal a library of books in Braille and Moon They are kept in touch with the world by means of the daily papers and magazines, which are read to them by visitors and by the superintendents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee. Typewriters are provided for the writing of letters, and pianos for the musical. Many indoor games such as draughts and chess are provided for the amusement of the guests, who also make full use of the extensive grounds which surround the house.

The guests frequently go to Chester to attend concerts and other entertainments, while concerts, dances, etc., are given in the home itself. One interesting feature of the home is the conversion of the conservatory into a little chapel—we had almost said a church—which is supplied with church pews, reading-desk, lectern, Communion table, and organ, and in which Mr. Toogood holds services twice on Sunday, whilst prayers are read

there each week-day.

In giving a description of the house which is affording to a number of blind persons a haven of rest in the evening of their lives, we feel that we cannot do better than quote the words of one of the blind guests in a letter to a friend which we are permitted to use:—

When I first arrived at Hoole Bank, I found everything that one could wish for.

There is a fine wardrobe, hot and cold water is laid on, and my bed is the most comfortable one I have ever slept on. All the rooms are thoroughly well furnished, with the idea of giving the greatest amount of comfort to those living here. The Men's Lounge, a beautiful large room, has a grand piano, a gramophone and any number of easy chairs. The ladies have a lounge of their own, which, I believe, from hearsay, is equally nice.

We are called at 7.30 and get down to breakfast at 8.30. (I may mention in parenthesis that the bacon here is the best I have ever tasted, while the meal is varied with fish, eggs, toast, butter and marmalade, and although I have travelled a bit about the world, frankly, I have never tasted such excellent coffee.) Men and women all have meals together, and when breakfast is over we men go into our lounge for a smoke, and at 9.30 have prayers in the little temporary chapel. The rector of the parish comes voluntarily and gives us two services on Sunday-he is a real good fellow. After prayers some of us have lessons in Braille reading, etc., or, if fine, we go out for a walk in the beautiful grounds until II a.m., when several ladies of the district take it in turn to come up and read the papers to us, so that we keep au fait with the affairs of the day.

Lunch is served at 12.30, the food being excellent. As a matter of fact, the servants here are most capable, and the cooking could not be better. After lunch we amuse ourselves in various ways, some reading, some going out, but the greater part, I am afraid, take forty winks! Most of our people type a lot, and very well, too. Tea is served in the lounge and the home-made cake is a dream! Between tea and dinner we chat, read and smoke until 7 p.m., when we begin

eating again.

About 8.30 we are honoured by the presence of the ladies, and those of us who care to have a little dance, do so, to the music of the gramophone, or perhaps the superintendent or his wife reads aloud to us a good story from the magazines or an interesting yarn.

In the winter months, every week, and sometimes twice a week, we have concerts. Talented people come up from Chester to sing and play to us, songs, piano and violin, while frequently we are visited by

concert parties, who keep us in roars of laughter. There was one very clever professional the other day, who, we all swore, had a whistle in his mouth, but he assured us that it was a natural art.

The grounds are perfectly beautiful, part of the twenty-three acres being devoted to orchards and a vegetable garden. The paths are level—a great benefit to us—and there are several big lawns and greenhouses and a host of wonderful old trees, beeches, sycamores, pines, elms, oaks, one of which is said to be over 600 years old. The rhododendron bushes are especially lovely, and one can almost feel the blaze of colour. There are also lots of roses, and nearly every day one is put beside our plates. I can assure you that for us, who cannot see, there is nothing sweeter than the scent of the flowers.

In a sentence, Hoole Bank is a most comfortable home, and an ideal one for

the blind."

CORRESPONDENCE

13, Grove Street, Rusholme, Manchester.

DEAR SIR,—It is with interest we read in your columns of the formation of a recreation club in Cardiff, and as a spur to other blind communities we should like to report that we in Manchester have been running a social club for the past fourteen months. The club is run on members' subscriptions, and provides indoor and outdoor recreation. most of the games supplied by the N.I.B., and in addition we have a bagatelle board. Periodically we hold whist drives, which are very popular amongst our members. The Parks Committee have granted us a secluded piece of ground for outdoor Last summer we were able to organise an enjoyable ramble and tea. We shall be pleased to supply further information should anyone desire it.

FRED MELLOR.

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No one who has not a complete know-ledge of himself will ever have a true understanding of another.—*Novalis*.

PITCH upon that course of life which is the most excellent, and custom will render it the most delightful.—Pythagoras.

THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

THE following article was contributed to *The Observer*, of October 23rd, by its medical correspondent:—

As new-born babies, we are in danger of losing the sight of the eyes which we have just opened upon the sublunary scene. Those of us who, for instance, can read these words, probably had the advantage of the immediate gentle and thorough care which all new-born eyes should receive, or otherwise we might have been numbered amongst the many who, as we say in a false and misleading

phrase, were "born blind."

Doctors, nurses, and midwives are, of course, trained in this matter to some extent. The certified midwife is required to attend to the baby's eyes. We have even gone so far as to make inflammation of the eyes of the new-born, ophthalmia neonatorum, a notifiable disease. A large proportion of such cases, and a very much larger proportion of the gravest cases, are due to infection by the gonococcus. Perhaps seventy to eighty per cent. would represent the importance of this cruel parasite in such cases. In effect, therefore, this is the one form of so-called venereal disease which is notifiable in this country; "so-called," I say, for in this, as in innumerable other instances, the infection is not venereal at all, and to describe the innocent victim as suffering from a venereal disease, as we do, is yet one more instance of the confusion of thought which saturates our medical terminology.

Despite such care as we take, very many eyes are lost, especially the cases due to the *gonococcus*. Understand that upon the care and skill of a few seconds, now, the eyesight of a lifetime depends; and that, for lack of such care and skill, all civilised countries maintain blind asylums largely inhabited by hapless persons paying the penalty for sins of commission and omission not their own.

To swab out a baby's eyes with a weak solution of nitrate of silver—shall say?—sounds easy. It is far from easy. You must not destroy the function of the delicate organ, "so obvious and so easy to be quenched," as Milton says;

and you must be so thorough that no infection can possibly remain in any fold or corner of the conjunctival mucous membrane. In fact, this simple, momentous little piece of work is too often imperfectly done, quite apart from the cases where it is not done at all. At the recent English-speaking Conference on Infant Welfare, held in London, a resolution-which we, or rather the babies of tomorrow, owe chiefly to Dr. Harold Scurfield, lately Medical Officer of Health for Sheffield, was unanimously passed as follows:—

That this conference is of opinion that a great deal of unnecessary loss of sight is still being caused by the failure to secure adequate preventive measures and prompt, skilled treatment for ophthalmia neonatorum, and urges the Ministry of Health to institute an inquiry into the causes of such failure.

From the Children's Bureau, Washington, I have just received two bulletins concerned with the results of intensive study of infant mortality in two American cities, one in Ohio and one in Massachusetts. In New Bedford, Massachusetts, all cases of newly-born eves which present the slightest appearance of swelling or redness must be reported, and then, if the municipal nurse thinks necessary, an oculist sees the case. Ever since 1916 the oculist has been a full-time officer of the board: and "since the law became operative and the board assumed the responsibility of caring for these infants, the oculist employed by the board has not lost a single case." In Akron, Ohio, there is an "eye" nurse who devotes her whole time to the eves of the babies of that city.

Is it worth while to do this work well? Is it economy to pay a few shillings to save a child's vision, instead of having a blind person to educate and to support for perhaps fifty or eighty years? Is it "in England now" pleasant to see cases where the horrible inflammation is beginning to subside, but the eye-windows will be opaquely scarred for life, all for want of a little skilled care? Or shall we concentrate upon experiments in surgery whereby transparent portions of the cornea of animals' eyes may be transplanted to the eyes of children thus These be "oratorical quesblinded?

tions," but they demand answers never-

Finally, observe that, following my own master, Dr. Ballantyne, of Edinburgh, the pioneer of ante-natal care, and Dr. Amand Routh, and Dr. Sequeira, and all others who lead the way, we should learn to care for and treat the expectant mother, so that her child's eyes may have nothing to fear from her who gives them birth.

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O N the occasion of Princess Mary's visit to Brighton on the 22nd of last month two blinded officers, Mr. John Stevens, late Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and Mr. Frederick Martin, late Gordon Highlanders, who were the guests of Sir Arthur Pearson at his house in Hove, were introduced by Mr. S. R. Atter, late Royal Welsh Fusiliers, adjutant to the Officers' Branch, St. Dunstan's. Her Royal Highness inquired very kindly as to the occupations which the blinded officers have been enabled to follow as a result of their training at St. Dunstan's. Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Martin also had the honour of being introduced.

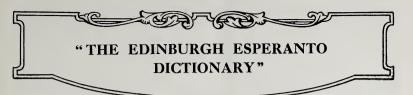
I N accordance with the revised Postal Rates the undermentioned reduced subscriptions to our magazines and newspapers will come into force on January 1st, 1922. The subscription rates are identical for both inland and abroad.

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Progress				 б	0
Literary Journal				 ΙI	6
Comrades					
School Magazine				 б	6
Musical Magazine				 7	6
Massage Journal				 3	6
Braille Mail				 6	6
Nuggets				 8	0
Moon				 18	6
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THE Lancet informs us that there are about 4,000 war-blinded men in Germany, of whom 287 are natives of Silesia.

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CAPTAIN ANGUS BUCHANAN, a blind V.C., recently unveiled a war memorial at Monmouth Grammar School, of which he is an old boy.





HERE is no class of the community in which Esperanto is more popular than among the blind. At the suggestion of Mr. W. P. Merrick the National Institute for the blind has from time to time published in Braille various books relating to the subject, and a list of these can be obtained from the Institute. The most recent

publications are the Esperanto Dictionary (in four volumes, price 16s. per volume), and Fryer's *Esperanto Teacher*, (in two volumes, price 16s. per volume). The prices of both these books are subject to the usual discounts to blind British and Colonial purchasers.

The following information concerning the Esperanto Dictionary, which has been kindly supplied by Mr. Merrick will, we feel sure, be of interest to a number of

readers:—

WERE the fact not otherwise, one might suppose that Esperanto had been invented especially for the blind, for it is the only language of which adequate text books can be comprised in a few Braille volumes. The comparative ease with which Esperanto can be learnt has gained for it many blind adherents who would never have ventured to take up a more complicated form of speech, but who, when their appetite for foreign languages had once been whetted, have used it for improving their knowledge of other tongues-their mother tongue not excepted. Thus it is that to-day the "Esperanta Ligilo" has a circulation of over 600 copies a month in twenty-eight different countries, while in August last over fifty blind Esperantists speaking ten different languages met and were hospitably entertained by the Blind Institute at Prague during the Esperanto Congress held in that city.

Those of us, therefore, who wish to increase our knowledge of countries where English is not spoken will be deeply grateful to the National Institute for the Blind for the excellent Esperanto outfit it has just completed by the publication of the "Edinburgh Esperanto Dictionary." This, with the "Esperanto Teacher" and the first part of "Unua Legolibro," previously issued by the Institute, provides all that is needed to acquire a thorough working acquaintance with the language.

The Dictionary is in two parts. The first part, contained in volume I of the Braille copy, gives some 5,000 Esperanto root-words with their English meanings, accompanied by many examples showing how derived words are formed, and is alone sufficient for reading anything published in the language. The other three volumes consist of an English vocabulary of some 13,000 words with the Esperanto meanings. This vocabulary is so carefully chosen that the writer or translator will seldom fail to find the word he is in search of to express his idea. American readers may be pleased to learn that no Braille contractions are used in the

The present writer invites anyone who is interested in the language to communi-

cate with him.

W. P. Merrick.

Woodleigh, Shepperton.

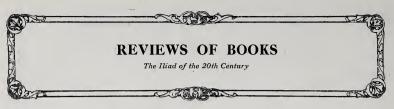
main words of this second part..

THE Annual British Esperanto Congress will be held in London next Whitsuntide.

One of the features of the Congress will be a great public meeting on the afternoon of Saturday, 3rd June, 1922, in the Queen's Hall, at which all interested in the Esperanto movement will be welcome. Speeches will be delivered in both English and Esperanto.

The British Esperanto Association will hold its Annual General Meeting

during the Congress.



*"Fleurs de Sang,"—L'Iliade du 20ième Siecle (Août 1914, Novembre 1918), par Marcel André (dit André-Bellot). To be obtained from the author, at 19, Rue de l'Enclos-Rey, Nîmes, price 6 francs.



HE terrors of the battlefield— Pain and Death, Patriotism the love which "passeth understanding"—all these are contained in a volume of verse written by M. Marcel André-Bellot, a blinded French soldier.

To the average Frenchman love of country is as a fire, both fierce and holy; to the writer of these verses "la patrie" appears

as a mother who demands the service of her sons:—

She came to me long years ago (I lay in my cradle asleep), And murmured in accents low: "I am sad and I needs must weep."

Sleep, sleep, pretty baby, sleep long, Sweet dreams be thy lot through the night,

The daylight and youth find thee strong To avenge my honour and fight.

Years passed, and I, but a lad
At school with my fellows at play,
Heard that selfsame voice, sweet and
sad:

"Work, work, child, and wait for The DAY."

And again as upon that night
I saw her fair form advance
In a robe blue, red and white.
I cried: "My mother—France!"

What avails all my grief and fears,
Who art born of this beauteous land.
I must rise and avenge those tears,
And take the sword in my hand. *

In a poem which forms the preface to this collection, M. Bellot describes poetry as the "soul of one's native land," and the poet as its servant, and in fine language he recalls the great poets of many lands. Of very great interest are the poems which deal with the warriors of other religions and other climes, with the Jews, the Mussulmans, the Brahmans and the Buddhists, who fought right valiantly and well. Nor has the poet failed to do homage to the Glorious Dead, to whom he pays many a fine tribute. We would especially call our readers' attention to the memorial erected to Rupert Brooke and also to the poem entitled "To a Scottish Piper." "The Dog-Warrior" and the "Wounded Pigeon" reveal the poet's love of animals.

There are very few aspects of the Great War left untouched by M. Bellot, and it is impossible to give a detailed description of each of the poems which go to make what their author himself describes as the "Iliad of the Twentieth Century."



THE Newport Corporation Tramways Committee have decided to give facilities to the blind people of the town, to travel free on the tramcars.



As many days as we pass without doing some good are so many days entirely lost.

—Montaigne.

A COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION
OF BLIND GIRLS has recently been opened under
the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind
at The Cedars, Chorley Wood, Herts., where blind
and partially blind pupils receive a first-class specialised
education. There are vacancies at the College and
full particulars as to the curriculum, fees. etc. can
be obtained from the Headmistress, Miss PHYLLIS

* This is a rough translation of part of the poem called "L'Apparition."

MONK, M A., at the above address.

NOTES FROM INSTITUTIONS

ARROGATE and District Society for the Blind.—A Society to be known as the Harrogate and District Society for the Blind was recently inaugurated at a conference and exhibition held at the Spa Rooms, Harrogate, under the auspices of the Northern Counties' Association for the Blind. In stating the aims of the society, Mr. Miles Priestley, H.M. Inspector of Blind Institutions, said that the new society would probably be an "approved agency" to rank for Government grants in regard to certain specified services, and it would probably also be the medium through which the West Riding County Council would effect a better administration of the Blind Persons Act. The State had already granted pensions to about 7,000 blind persons between 50 and 70 years of age, and the amount allowed to agencies in the Northern Counties' Association by the Ministry of Health during the last financial year was well over £12,000. The money for pensions and grants was regarded as sufficient to meet half the estimated cost, and the local authorities might fairly be expected to provide an equal amount if necessary for the combined cost of carrying out their respective schemes. He was authorised to say that the Ministry desired to urge local authorities to foster the voluntary side of the work in every way.

THE Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society holds a Wednesday afternoon class for teaching blind people of all ages various occupations, such as knitting, string-bag making, chair caning, rug making, etc. The class is held at the Central Rooms of the Society, Artillery Street, Deansgate, from 2 to 4 o'clock. Fresh pupils will be very welcome.

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To give one hour of comfort to the victim of adversity, and to cheer with one transient gleam of joy the evening of life, ought surely to be among the pleasures, as they are among the duties of humanity.—Sir W. Drummond.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place, and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly, Scarce heard amidst the guns below. We are the day. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved; and now we lie In Flanders Fields.

Col. John McCrae.

THE third anniversary of the Armistice was observed with solemnity throughout the Empire over which the sun never sets. In London the Cenotaph was fittingly the centre of a special ceremonial, and many floral tributes, including wreaths from the members of the Royal Family, were deposited at its base. A Commemoration Service was held at Westminster Abbey.

At the stroke of 11 the mighty heart of the Metropolis seemed to stop beating. In the streets scarcely a sound was to be heard-here and there the throb of a motor being brought to a standstill-once and again the suppressed sob of a woman. What varying thoughts must have crowded into the minds of that vast concourse in that brief space of time. Into the mind's eye of the present writer there flashed a vision-of a "far-flung battleline," suddenly motionless,—of deepvoiced cannon rendered dumb-of the glint of arms in the sunlight. Thus it was on November 11, 1918, when fighting was brought to an end, leaving its aftermath of confusion and pain.

Wounded men-men still under treatment for wounds and injuries-and the totally disabled—are not so familiar a sight in the streets as they were even a year ago. In the military hospitals around London there are still, however, several thousand of wounded soldiers, and under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England more than a thousand blind, wounded and disabled soldiers were brought in brakes and omnibuses from various hospitals, in order to pay their tribute to their fallen comrades. Amongst this gathering were to be seen parties of men from St. Dunstan's, who, together with their comrades of the war laid their floral offerings on the Nation's monument to its Glorious Dead.

In single file, with arms outstretched to touch the comrade in front, the St. Dunstan's men walked up to the Cenotaph, and when told by the sister in charge that the monument was in front of them, they saluted, paused a moment, and passed on.

OVER 100 aged blind persons were present on the 16th November at the Church of St. Mildred, Bread-street, E.C., and received sums of £5 from the Master of the Cordwainers' Company. The pensions were provided by a trust created by John Caine in 1782.

Recent Additions to the National Library for the Blind NOVEMBER, 1921

الله السنسي له السيسية له السيسية ك
Richard Chatterton, V.C., 5 volsR. M. Ayres
Shadow Line, 2 volsJ. Conrad
Memoirs of a Cavalier, 5 vols Daniel Defoe
Daniel Deronda, 15 vols
Three Black Pennys, 6 vols J. Hergesheimer
Wood beyond the World, 2 volsWilliam Morris
The Survivor, 3 volsE. Phillips Oppenheim
Jill on a Ranch, 2 volsGertrude Page
Love Lane, 4 vols
King in Babylon, 5 vols
Minor Operations, 2 vols"Taffrail"
MISCELLANEOUS.
MISCELLANEOUS.

China under the Dowager Empress, 7 vols.

J. O. P. Bland, and E. Backhouse Self and Self-Management, 1 volA. Bennett Shelley, Godwin and their Circle, 3 vols. H. N. Brailsford Shelley, the man and the poet, 5 vols.

A. Clutton-Brock

On the Art of Reading, 4 vols.. A. T. Quiller-Couch St. AthanasiusF. A. Forbes St. Columbia of ScotlandF. A. Forbes St. Hugh of LincolnF. A. Forbes Evolution, (E. W. Austin Memorial Fund) 3 vols. P. Geddes and J. A. Thomson *Story of Columbus, 2 vols.G. M. Imlach *Rudiments of Criticism, 2 vols.

Through Western Madagascar, 3 vols.
W. D. Marcuse

English Literature, Modern, 3 vols......G. H. Mair *Story of Oliver Cromwell, 2 vols....H. E. Marshall Living Past: a sketch of Western Progress, 4 vols. F. S. Marvin *Primary Lessons in Christian living and healing,

2 vols.A. R. Militz Montrose, 3 vols.Mowbray Morris Fifteen chapters of Autobiography, 4 vols.
G. W. E. Russell

Letters to Isabel, 4 vols.Rt, Hon, Lord Shaw

Sinai and Palestine, 12 vols. Dean Stanley Catholic Faith in Practice, 3 vols. ...F. Underhill *New World Literary Series (Bk. III.), 3 vols. Editor, H. C. Wyld

UNCONTRACTED. *New World Literary Series (Bk. I.), 3 vols. Editor, H. C. Wyld

FOREIGN. Mon Frère Yves, 5 vols.Pierre Loti GRADE III.

One day and another, 2 vols......E. V. Lucas

MOON. Four Million, 4 vols.O. Henry Luke Delmege, 13 vols.Canon Sheehan

ESPERANTO. "Edinburgh" Esperanto Dictionary, 4 vols. Published by T. Nelson and Sons Japanaj Rakontoj, 1 vol.Tosion Shif *Stereotyped books.

PIANO. Prelude in G. op. 3......J. Friskin Fantasiestück, op. 111, No. 3......R. Schumann Humoresque in G.F. Swinstead Sketches for pedal-piano, No. 1......R. Schumann PIANO STUDY. ORGAN. Sonata No. 4 in E minor (1st movement)

Recent Additions to the Massage Library

J. S. Bach

Diagrams of the Central Nervous System. Electrical Examination and Treatment of Nerve Wounds, by J. Tinel. Two vols. (pocket

Encephalitis Lethargica, by G. F. Stebbing, M.D. (Pocket edition.) Evolutionary Wounds, by Prof. Sir Arthur Keith,

M.D. (Pocket edition.) Pistural Deformities, by A. S. Blundell-Bankart. (Pocket edition.)



WE have been greatly interested to hear that Mrs. Martin, of Church Street, Sandwich, who has been blind for the last ten years and is also very deaf, recently celebrated her 102nd birthday. Five generations of her family are living, and her eldest daughter, aged 78, is the mother of sixteen children. Until two years ago Mrs. Martin was able to do all her own sewing, and even now she is often heard to remark that she wishes she could see, so as to be able to work. Mrs. Martin is visited regularly by one of the visitors attached to the Home Teaching Branch of the National Institute for the Blind.

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the November Numbers

- Progress.—King Edward VII (Part III)—Preface to the Translation of Dante's "Divina Commedia," by H. W. Longfellow—Dante—Games for the Blind—Garden Notes (November)—Matters of the Moment—Environment as Educator, by G. F. Mow III—Our Prize Competitions—Passenger "Records" on the Underground—The Question Box—Chess—Advertisements.
- The Literary Journal.—Environment as Educator, by
 G. F. Mowatt—Occasional Verse, by Mr. Ben Purse
 —Scholarships for the Blind—Ex-Service, by Chris
 Massie—The Reconsideration of the Middle Ages
 (Part I), by G. R. Stirling Taylor—The Moving of
 the Waters in China, by M. T. Z. Tyan—National
 Library for the Blind—Huge Power-Extension Scheme
 at Niagara—Recent Additions to the Massage Library
 —Links with Napoleon.
- Sebool Magazine.—A Legend of Reading Abbey (V) by C. Macfarlane (to be continued)—Sone Game-Birds of Great Britain, by R. Fortune, F.Z.S.—William Blake, 1757-1827, from My Magazine —Que-ies—Indian Trappers and their Ways—Biography in Brief: George Frederick Handel—Radiant Matter—Higher Education for the Blind—The Lamb (Poem), by William Blake—Desert Men—A Ride on the Angry Alligator—Chattering Monkeys—Four Kinds of People.
- Comrades.—The Story of the "Iliad," from the "Children's Encyclopadia"—The Giant's Wig, by Ada M. Marzials—Scrap Meets an Ogre, from My Magazine—Games to Play sitting by the Fire—Mother Earth's Call—Shoulder-High (Grade 1)—Puzzles The Discontented Apples, by F. E. Weatherley.
- Braille Musical Magazine.—Technical Education and Examination—Dr. Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1810. 1876—Dr. Edwin Evans' Lecture on the Pianola—Review—Advertisement.—'Tuning Up" for the Proms—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews and National Institute for the Blind Edition—Insets: Piano, "Three Pianoforte Sketches" (for Young Players), by H. G. Oke; Song, "Myself when Young" ("In a Persian Garden"), by Liza Lehmann.

- The Journal of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.—Some Notes on the Uses of Electrical Treatment in Orthopædic Surgery, by W. Rowley Bristow, F.R.C.S. (concluded)—Official Notices—Medical Electricity Examination—Physical Therapeutics from the Surgical Standpoint, by J. Stuart Ross, M.B., F.R.C.S., E. (to be continued).
- A. C. B. M. Journal.—Lecture: Evolutionary Wounds (to be continued)—Chronic Infections and Mental Activity—The Importance of Physical Fitness in the Professional Woman—News in the Massage World —Special Notices.
- The Hampstead—The Beach of Vanalona, by Beatrice Grimshaw—The Currency Problem — Who Built "Big Ben"?—What Ambition Means.
- Santa Lucia.—The New Serial: The Great Impersonation, chapters 1-2, by E. Phillips Oppenheim (to be continued)—St. John's Guild for the Blind—The Pride of Shackleton—Calcutta's Great Tree—The Gecko.
- Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mine of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

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The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Luck Penny (continued) — Summer Time Surprise — Romañce Hidden in a Secondhand Book — An Unanswerable Argument—New Publications.

- Wanted, early January next, a Sighted Forewoman for the Trading Section of the Knitting Department tor Blind Workers. The post is non-resident. Must have experience of Flat, Round and Finishing Machines, be up-to-date with fashions and be capable of managing Workers. Applications, stating age, experience and salary required, not later than December 10th, to SECRETARY, the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, Edgbaston.
- Resident Mistress required for Home for Blind Babies, "Sunshine House," Chorley Wood, Herts. (20 miles from London). Must fulfil requirements of Board of Education for Infant teaching. Music an advantage. Apply, NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, 224-6-8 Gt. Portland Street, London, W.1.

ERNEST LITTLEWOOD, Bass Soloist.

GOLD MEDALLIST—Herts and North Middlesex Festival, 1907

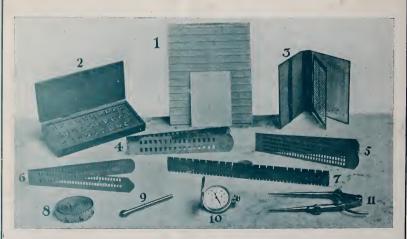
- Open to receive ENGAGEMENTS for Concerts, Oratorios, Sacred and Secular Cantatas. Repertoire includes, 'Messiah,' "Creation,' "Elijah,' "St. Paul," "Crucifixion,' etc. Terms on application Reduced Fee for Charity Performances. 14 Upper Park Road, New Southgate, N.
- HOME OF REST FOR THE BLIND, Caswell Hill, Mumbles, Glamorgan. — Applications for admission to the above Home will be received by the Hon. Secretary, JOSEPH HALL, Grosvenor House, Swansea.

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



GAMES FOR THE BLIND.—Draughts, Russian Fives, Chess, Chess and Draughts Outfit, Cheery Families, Bridge and Whist Cards, Patience Cards.



APPARATUS FOR THE BLIND.—1 Correspondence Tablets; 2 Braillette Board; 3 Pocket Postcard Writing-Frame; 4 Two-lined Pocket-guide for Giant Dots; 5 Four-lined Pocket Frame: 6 Two-lined interlining Pocket Guide; 7 Brass Foot Rule; 8 Tape Measure; 9 Spur-wheel; 10 Braille Watch; 11 Compasses.



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THE LATE SIR ARTHUR PEARSON, BT., G.B.E. (Fboto by J. Russell & Sont.)

(President of the National Institute for the Blind, Chairman of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors'

Care Committee, etc., etc.)



VOL. VI.—No. 61.

JANUARY, 1922.

PRICE 3D.

THE DEATH OF A GREAT PHILANTHROPIST

T is with feelings of deepest and sincerest sorrow that we have to report to our readers the sudden and tragic death of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E. On Friday, December 9th, whilst Sir Arthur was taking his bath, he slipped, and, striking his head on the taps, was drowned while unconscious.

So sudden an end to so glorious a career has deprived the blind of a friend whose untiring efforts on their behalf have been fruitful of an enormous amount of good. It may truly be said that Sir Arthur Pearson was largely instrumental in opening up a new world to the blind, and changing the whole aspect of their lives. To our readers his death will come as a personal loss, and there is not one blind

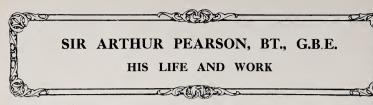
person in the United Kingdom to-day who will not feel that an invaluable friend has passed away. And not only amongst the blind will his loss be felt, but all over the Empire his death will be mourned by those who admire and love a great man with a great and noble soul.

After a distinguished journalistic career, detailed elsewhere in these pages, Sir Arthur whose eyesight had been failing for several years, became totally blind. With a force of character beyond all praise he faced the new conditions of his life, and proceeded to devote all his abilities to the amelioration of the lot of the sightless. The details of his achievements in this direction are given in the following pages, and no one will deny that they form a record which will live as long as the memory of unselfish devotion and heroic endeavour is cherished in the minds of men.

While there is a blind person existing in the world, the name of Sir Arthur will be treasured and honoured as a source of that spirit of self-confidence which triumphs over despair and makes of misfortune a stepping-stone to future achievements.

Perhaps there could be no better summary of his character than the noble words of Browning:

"One who never turned his back, but marched breast forward,
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,
Sleep to wake."





YRIL ARTHUR PEARSON was born at Wookey, near Wells, in Somersetshire, on February 24th, 1866. His father was the Rev. A. Cyril Pearson, an Anglican clergyman, whose dictionary is well-known. At ten years of age Arthur Pearson was sent to a preparatory school at Wimbledon, where he remained for four years. He then entered Winchester Col-

lege, where he distinguished himself in every form of athletic sport.

On leaving school Arthur Pearson spent his time in miscellaneous reading under the guidance of his father in the country rectory. Then came his opportunity: the late Sir George Newnes, founder of Tit-Bits, announced that he would offer a situation with a salary of £100 per year to the reader who would supply the best answers to ten questions set each week for a period of three months.

As winner of the position offered by Sir George Newnes, Arthur Pearson came to London in September, 1884, and embarked on the career which was to bring him fame and fortune. Six months later the managership of the office became vacant, and Mr. Pearson, though only nineteen years of age, applied for and eventually obtained the post, which he held for four years. In 1889 Mr. W. T. Stead founded the Review of Reviews, in partnership with Sir George Newnes, Mr. Pearson becoming their first manager. The strong wills of Newnes and Stead clashed before the appearance of the periodical, and Stead was left to start it alone. Soon after this Mr. Pearson left the "Newnes" office.

Under circumstances none too favourale, and with but little capital, he then started a paper which he called after his own name: Pearson's Weekly. In founding this

paper his ideal was to supply readers with wholesome and up-to-date reading matter ; and although he was then only 24 years of age. his quick perception enabled him to know exactly what the public required. It must be mentioned that it was in connection with Pearson's Weekly that Mr. Pearson founded the "Fresh Air Fund," to enable poor slum children to have a change in the country, far from the fœtid air of the great city. This fund started in the early days of Pearson's Weekly with a Christmas feast given in Stepney to 2,000 poor children. Arthur Pearson went down to play with the children, and there realised that what they required was something more than an annual dinner. The result was the scheme which has enabled over four million children to obtain a day's country pleasures, whilst considerably over 60,000 little ones have been given a fortnight's holiday under the pleasantest conditions imaginable.

Pearson's Weekly was the forerunner of numerous periodicals. Home Notes, which was the first home paper of its size, was an immediate success and has remained so. Pearson's Magazine, the Royal Magazine, the Novel Magazine, the Smallholder, the Scout (the official organ of the "Scout" movement), Peg's Paper, Peg's Companion, followed each other in rapid succession. Mr. Pearson soon turned his thoughts to the establishment of a daily newspaper, and in 1900 he founded the Daily Express. This paper was almost the first to advocate the political movement in favour of Tariff Reform, and Arthur Pearson soon became an important figure in the group of men who supported Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and the cause which he championed. He forwarded the movement in the pages of his paper, and founded committees and organisations, thereby earning the sincere gratitude of Mr. Chamberlain, who alluded to him as "the greatest hustler I have ever known." It is

interesting to note that he became a Vice-President of the Tariff Reform League, and acted as Chairman of the Tariff Commission in 1903. The Daily Express was the first newspaper to have news items printed on its front page. As time went on Mr. Pearson acquired the controlling interests of various newspapers in different parts of the country; first that of the St. James's Gazette in the year 1903. In 1904 he purchased the Standard, and with it the Evening Standard. Later he amalgamated the Evening Standard with the St. James's Gazette. He also had control of newspapers in Newcastle, Birmingham, and other towns.

All the hard work imposed upon him had laid a severe strain upon his eyesight, which had never been of the strongest. Eleven years ago his sight began to fail, and four years later, just before the outbreak of war, he became blind. He had by then gradually relinquished a great many of his interests, always excepting that of his original business, and by dint of his indomitable will, unfailing patience and tireless industry he "taught himself to be blind." How he passed that knowledge on to others, and kindled the fires of hope in many a stricken heart, has now become history.

Arthur Pearson's connection with the National Institute for the Blind began in October, 1913, when he was unanimously elected a member of the Council. In January, 1914, he was elected, again unanimously. Honorary Treasurer, and in July of the same year, President, which office he held until the time of his death. His first work in connection with the Institute was the organisation of a vigorous money-raising campaign to cover the cost of the new building of the Institute at 224-6-8, Great Portland Street. W. 1, which was then in course of erection. He succeeded in raising a net sum of approximately £60,000, and the Institute was thus enabled to complete and equip a buildingopened in March, 1914, by their Majesties the King and Queen-which is now the centre of a world-wide distribution of Braille literature and music for the blind, and other far-reaching activities.

With the outbreak of war in August, 1914, a new field of action presented itself before the Council of the Institute. It was unanimously resolved to delegate power to the Hon. Treasurer and the Secretary-General to do all that was possible to help

men who might lose their sight in the service of their country. With his well-known vigour Mr. Pearson formed a committee of representatives of the National Institute, the Red Cross, the National Library for the Blind, etc., for this purpose. Proposed by the Secretary-General, Mr. H. Stainsby, Mr. Pearson was duly elected Chairman, and the world knows the history of the movement that followed, and which will consecrate for ever the names Arthur Pearson and St. Dunstan's in all men's memories. The best account of St. Dunstan's will be found in the book written by Sir Arthur himself-" Victory over Blindness"-published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton. It was in recognition of his great work as the founder of St. Dunstan's that a baronetcy was conferred on Arthur Pearson in 1916, whilst in the following year he was made Grand Commander of the British Empire.

In connection with the care and training of blinded soldiers, the National Institute, still under the Presidency of Sir Arthur Pearson, played a foremost part in collecting funds through its widespread organisation, and in providing books and apparatus.

Although the organisation of St. Dunstan's was the main activity of Sir Arthur's career from 1914 onwards, he devoted a large amount of time to the National Institute, and it is through his sympathetic and vigorous interest in connection with the blind that the whole attitude of the public has been changed towards these heavily handicapped people.

Sir Arthur was ably supported in his work in aid of the Blind by the members of the Council of the National Institute, including Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., Captain E. B. B. Towse, V.C., Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., Mr. G. F. Mowatt, J.P., Captain Ian Fraser, Mr. W. P. Merrick, all of whom are blind, and by a number of sighted folk. It rests with them, supported by a generous and sympathetic public, to continue and extend the noble work of Victory over Blindness which received perhaps its highest impetus from the energy, organising ability and indomitable courage of Sir Arthur Pearson.

We shall speak elsewhere in these pages of Sir Arthur's work as Chairman and Hon. Treasurer of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind, and as President of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs. He was further President of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, which is affiliated to

the National Institute for the Blind, London; Chairman of the British Uniform Type Committee; Member of the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind; Member of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind; Representative of St. Dunstan's on the London County Council Committee for the Welfare of the Blind in connection with the Blind Persons Act, 1920; Chairman of the Board of Governors of Worcester College; Trustee of the Moon Society; Member of the Board of Governors of the Royal Normal College; Trustee of the Clifton Home for Blind Women. He

held other positions too numerous to mention.

In all his work in connection with the blind, Sir Arthur was enthusiastically supported by his wife, Lady Pearson, who last year was created D.B.E., and who has organized, with conspicuous ability and success, the National Institute's Blind Musicians Concert Party. She has now been appointed President of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care Committee. Their son, Sir Neville Pearson, who succeeds to the baronetcy, has been appointed a Vice-President and Member of Committee of St. Dunstan's.



A SONNET

(Dadicated with every sentiment of respect and regard to my decrased friend and colleague, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt.)

KNEEL beside thy grave, mine honoured friend.

And shame not that my bitter tears do flow: The world holds few like thee, and thus to go When most we needed thee—untimely end. Here thou dost sleep within this hallowed grove.

Where sturdy poplars strive to reach the

And mighty elm trees all do seem to rise, A not unfriendly rivalry to prove. 'Tis here the sweetly-perfumed primrose blows,

And the coy violet hides its blushing face.
Unsullied nature in this holy place

Makes loveliness more lovely as she grows. Sleep peacefully beneath these sacred mounds;

Rise thou triumphant when Reveillé sounds!

Ben Purse



THE CHOIR FROM THE ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND SINGING AT THE SERVICE HELD PRIOR TO THE INTERMENT AT HAMPSTEAD CEMETERY. (Photographs by the Topical Press and Central News Agencies.)





N Tuesday, the 13th December, there passed to his last resting place, Sir Arthur Pearson, the friend of the blind. From all parts of the Kingdom—from towns as remote as Aberdeen and Penzance—came men blinded in the war to take farewell of their Chief who, from out the abyss of grim despair, had led them on to a new hope and a new life.

Prior to the interment at Hampstead Cemetery, a funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone, conducted by the Bishop of London, assisted by the Rev. Prebendary E. N. Sharpe, M.A., and the Rev. Harold Gibb, B.A., who was blinded in the war. Amongst the vast and deeplymoved congregation were people well known in various walks of life; but predominant were the numbers of those who shared Sir Arthur's deprivation and had drawn courage from his example. Thousands of people, who had failed to gain admittance to the church, waited patiently without in order that they might pay their silent tribute of respect to the man whose work was well known and honoured.

Before the coffin, as it was borne up the aisle, walked a boy scout, holding a floral Union Jack, surmounted by a dove, bearing the letters "V.O.B." (Victory over Blindness). The pall-bearers were Mr. Charles Knowles, Mr. H. F. Lipscomb (Sir Arthur's sons - in - law). Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L. (Chairman of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind), Captain E. B. B. Towse, V.C. (Vice Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind), Captain Ian Fraser (now Chairman of St. Dunstan's), Mr. P. W. Everett, Mr. J. M. Bathgate, (Directors of Messrs. C. A. Pearson, Ltd.), Sir John Kirk, and Mr. Ernest Kessell (representing the Fresh Air Fund). At the head of the chief mourners came Lady Pearson and her son. Sir Neville Pearson, followed by Mrs. Knowles, Mrs. Lipscomb, Mrs. Cotterell (Sir Arthur's daughters), Mrs. Menzies, Mrs. Arnold, Miss Pearson (his sisters), Mr. Menzies, Mr. Arnold (his brothers-in-law), Lady Stevenson, Miss Fraser, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Ivor Fraser and Mrs. Neele (Sir Arthur's sisters-in-law).

The noble words of the Burial Service touched all hearts. The opening sentences were followed by Psalm XXIII. and the Lesson from the Corinthians. The hymns were "Lead, kindly Light," "Abide with Me," and "For all the Saints." The blessing was pronounced by the Bishop of London, and then came the solemn and triumphant strains of Chopin's Funeral March, followed by the pronouncement of the "Nunc Dimittis."

In silence the blinded men left the church to hold their tryst at the graveside of the Chief. Here, before the arrival of the funeral procession, a service was held by the Rev. E. W. Williams, Chaplain of St. Dunstan's: in a reserved enclosure were massed the blind soldiers who were not present at the church. Standing at a temporary lectern, the Chaplain said: "Boys, I can hardly say how much the passing of the Chief has overwhelmed us. He was so dear to us. You have come from north, south, east and west. No chief ever loved his men more than Sir Arthur did, and no chief was more beloved by his men. We have lost, not only our Commander - in - Chief, but a dear friend. His message to you would be : 'Carry on the good work, and let victory be achieved.'" A special prayer was said, referring to the indomitable courage of the founder of St. Dunstan's, and asking that those who mourned for him might be comforted. The men joined fervently in the singing of three hymns; and with muffled drums the band of the Grenadier Guards played Chopin's Funeral March, the men standing stiffly at attention till the last notes had died away. The singing was led by a choir from the Royal Normal College for the

Blind, Upper Norwood. Shortly after this brief service the funeral cortège arrived. On the way from Holy Trinity Church it had paused for one brief moment before the bungalow in Regent's Park, near the original home of St. Dunstan's.

The coffin was supported to the graveside upon a wheeled bier, and upon its lid was placed a wreath from Queen Alexandra, bearing this inscription in her own

handwriting :--

"With deepest regret and admiration for the noble benefactor of the Blind.

> Life's race well run, Life's work well done, Life's crown well won, Now comes rest.

> > From ALEXANDRA."

The wreath from Lady Pearson, composed of violets in the form of an anchor, was lowered with the coffin into the grave, which was lined with laurels and white chrysanthemums. "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust." A verse of "O, God, our help in ages past" was sung. Then came the march past and silent farewell of the blind men.

Simultaneously with the service at Holy Trinity Church there was held a memorial service at St. Clement Danes, Strand, at which journalists paid a last tribute to one who for so many years was associated with Fleet Street.

Thus passed the "Chief," but his work lives on, and his memory will remain green in the hearts of those who loved him.

The floral tribute was exceptional, both as regards number and beauty. One of the leading West End florists stated that never since the funeral of King Edward had their resources been so severely taxed. The flowers were all laid out on the grass in the cemetery, and presented the appearance of a beautiful garden in its most luxuriant bloom.

Many floral offerings came from personal friends of Sir Arthur, and from people connected with his numerous interests, but an exceptional feature was the great number received from associations and public bodies, many of which had benefited by his unselfish and devoted work.

The latter included offerings from many associations and societies in connection with the blind, amongst these being the following:—

Council of the National Institute for the Blind; Staff of the National Institute for the Blind; Branch Offices of the National Institute for the Blind, Braille Department, National Institute for the Blind; Cardiff Branch, National Institute for the Blind; "Liverpool Branch, National Institute for the, Blind;"Liverpool Branch,



THE FUNERAL CORTEGE ENTERING THE CEMETERY

National Institute for the Blind; Blind Women of the Clifton Home, Bristol; Blind Women of the Residential Club, National Institute for the Blind; Boys of Worcester College for the Blind; Girls of Chorley Wood College for the Blind; Guests of Hoole Bank Guest-House for the Blind: Blind Babies of "Sunshine House:" Lady Pearson's Blind Concert Party and Miss Bell; Greater London Fund for the Blind; St. Dunstan's Staff; Matron and Staff, St. Dunstan's Houses, London; Matrons and Staff of St. Dunstan's Annexes at St. Leonards, Ilkley, North Berwick, Brighton and Cheltenham; Officers, N.C.O.'s and men in training at St. Dunstan's; Officers, N.C.O.'s and men who have left St. Dunstan's; Staffat Officers'Annexe, Brighton; New Zealand Blinded Soldiers; Australian Blinded Soldiers; Canadian Blinded Soldiers; South African Blinded Soldiers: Domestic Staff, St. John's Lodge; Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs; Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, St. Dunstan's National Whist Championship; President and Executive, Canadian National Institute for the Blind; Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

The King was represented at Holy Trinity Church by Sir Edward Wallington, Queen Alexandra by Colonel Sir Henry Streatfeild, the Queen of Norway by Mr. George Ponsonby, The Prince of Wales by General Trotter, The Duke of Connaught by Colonel Douglas Gordon, and Princess Beatrice by Colonel Frederick Packe.

Amongst those present in the congregation were:

Sir Washington Ranger (Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind), Captain E. B. B. Towse, V.C. (Vice-Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind).

Members of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind:—

Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Captain Ian Fraser, Mr. Godfrey Hamilton, Mr. W. P. Merrick, Mr. G. F. Mowatt, Mr. Sydney Parry, Mr. John Tennant.

Officials of the National Institute for the Blind :-Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General; Councillor J. Mathewson Watson, Hon. Treasurer of the Northern Branch of the National Institute for the Blind; Mr. J. Acton, Braille Office: Mr. H. Andrews, Order Dept.; Major Fordyce Birch, Business Manager; Mrs. Claremont, Secretary Blind Babies' Home; Mr. W. Evelyn Cowen, Travelling Commissioner; Mr. C. P. Davis, Cashier; Miss E. Walker Finlay, Sec. Blind Babi2s' Dept.; Mrs. Chaplin Hall, Secretary Massage Dept. and Hon. Sec. Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs; Miss G. Heckrath, Supervisor of Enquiry and Records; Mr. T. W. Holmes, Designer; Mr. F. J. Laverack, Joint Organising Secretary Greater London Fund for the Blind; Mr. J. H. Lee, Supervisor of Branches; Miss Phyllis Monk, Principal of the Chorley Wood College for Blind Girls; Miss K. Nightingale, Private Secretary; Mr. T L. Osborne, Order Dept.; Miss H. Page, Secretary Blind Musicians' Concert Party; Mr. H. C. Preece, Joint Organising Secretary Greater London Fund for the Blind: Mr. Ben Purse, Superintendent After-Care Branch; Mr. J. De La Mare Rowley, General Editor; Mr. Frank Ingle Stainsby, Assistant Secretary and Secretary Home Teaching Society; Mr. Alfred Stone, Secretary

of the Northern Branch, and Senior Secretary of the thirteen branches of the National Institute for the Blind; Mr. H. C. Warrilow, Musical Director; Mr. Percy Way, Principal Massage Depl., and Chairman Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs; Mr. E. H. Williams, Joint Organising Secretary Greater London Fund for the Blind.

St. Dunstan's Officials :-

Captain Ian Fraser (now Chairman); Mrs. Ian Fraser; Mrs. Chadwick Bates, Secretary; Mr. H. D. Black, Superintendent of Settlement; Mr. Ernest Kessell, Treasurer; Miss Pain, Superintendent of Braille and Typewriting Classrooms; Miss Witherby, Superintendent of Netting Work; Major C. Bartlett, Joint Organizing Secretary; Major G. P. L. Orr, Joint Organizing Secretary; Mr. Perry Barringer, Press Manager; Mr. D. V. Mills, Sporting Representative.

(It should here be mentioned that many important members of the St. Dunstan's staff were unfortunately prevented from attending owing to their duties in connection with the assembling of the St. Dunstan's men from all over the Kingdom).

Amongst other members of the congrega-

Sir James Allen, High Commissioner, New Zealand, Mr. Eric Allen (representing Rt. Hon. Sir L Worthington-Evans), Sir George Arthur, Lady Alexander, General Sir Bindon Blood and Lady Blood, Lord Beaverbrook, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Blumenfeld, Mr. O. A. Blyth (Workshops for the Blind), Sir Frederick Bowater, Sir Harry and Lady Brittain, Sir Bruce Bruce-Porter, Colonel Buckley (representing the Acting High Commissioner for Australia), Viscount Chaplin, Hon. Mrs. Reginald Coventry, Sir Emsley Carr, Marquis of Douglas and Clydesdale (representing his mother, the Duchess of Hamilton), Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield, Dr. P. Macintyre Evans (Chairman of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association for the Blind), Sir Malcolm and Lady Fraser, The Rev. Dr. Fearon (Sir Arthur Pearson's head-master at Winchester), Lord Faringdon, Miss Mary Garaway (College of Teachers of the Blind), Miss Greenwood, Major Arthur Haggard (representing the Veterans Club), Mr. T. F. Hobson (Swiss Cottage School for the Blind), Captain Houldsworth (representing General Lord Horne and Lady Horne). The Hon, Esmond Harmsworth, M.P., Mrs. Edith Hampson (Henshawe's Blind Institution), Lady Hulton, The Earl of Kintore, Colonel Mansell Moullin, Mr. Walter Maxwell Lyte, Miss Edith Maxwell Lyte, Countess of Limerick, Mr. George Mackie (representing Pearson's Fresh Air Fund, Edinburgh), Lady Morgan, The Rt. Hon. J. I. Macpherson, Lady Mond, Viscountess Marsham, The Duke of Newcastle, Sir Frank and Lady Newnes, Miss O. I. Prince (representing the National Library for the Blind), The High Commissioner for Canada and Lady Perley, Sir Gilbert and Lady Parker, Lady Riddell, Mr. Gordon Selfridge, Sir Milsom Rees, Lady Roxborough, Lord Rothermere, Lord Southwark, Lord Shaw, Mrs. Ward (late Matron St. Dunstan's), Mr. Arthur H. Ward (Shaftesbury Society and Ragged School Union), Major Wade (representing Sir Robert Baden-Powell and the Boy Scouts' Association), Sir Samuel Waring, Colonel Sir A. Lisle Webb.

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THE MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ST. JAMES', PADDINGTON

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with Me."



MEMORIAL SERVICE was held on Sunday evening, December 18th, at St. James' Church, Paddington, London, W., conducted by the Rev. Prebendary E. N. Sharpe, Vicar of the Parish and Hon. Chaplain of St. Dunstan's, assisted by the Rev. Ernest Williams, Chaplain of St. Dunstan's. The psalm, "The Lord is my Shepherd," the

hymns, "Ten thousand times ten thousand," "Abide with Me," "Lead, kindly Light," "For All the Saints," and a verse written by Mr. John Lydgate were sung. The opening and closing voluntaries and Chopin's Funeral March were played by Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., the blind Director of Music at the National Institute for the Blind. There was a large congregation, the following amongst many others, being present: Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, Captain and Mrs. Fraser, Mr. John Tennant, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Wood, Captain Pollard, from the London Association for the Blind, Dr. P. M. Evans, Chairman of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association for the Blind, Mr. H. Stainsby, Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind and a member of St. Dunstan's Committee, Lady O'Dwyer, Hon. Secretary. Mr. H. J. Wagg, Mrs. De Carteret, Miss Robinson and three blind workers from the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, Mr. and Mrs. Ottaway, Mrs. A. F. Heard, a number of sisters and blind men from St. Dunstan's, and many members of the staff of the National Institute for the Blind.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. Prebendary Sharpe, who chose for his text the words quoted above. He suggested that the picture of Christ standing and knocking was continually being painted in the experiences of many lives, and alluded to the sudden summons which had come to Sir Arthur Pearson, as he was preparing to

add another strenuous day to his ever busy The preacher went on to say: "If ever there was a life where much was crowded into a little space of time it was Sir Arthur's. It is not for me here and now to give any summary of that life, or to speak of his extraordinary business qualities, or to tell of how he made his fortune by the time he was 30, or how he became blind at 50. I can only speak of him as I knew him, soon after his blindness came upon him. Consecrating his life and all his powers on behalf of his blind brothers and sisters, he was determined from the very outset of the war that those who became blind should not suffer as did those who had lost their sight in the Boer war, for whom little, if anything, was done. Sir Arthur set to work with carefully prepared plans, with the help of the most skilled eye-doctors and surgeons and with the support of his comrades on the Council of the National Institute for the Blind, to provide for the need as it arose. St. Dunstan's was the outcome, and for that work the whole Empire owes him a debt of gratitude. By sheer force of character he not only triumphed over his own blindness. but enabled thousands of others to triumph His whole life and thought and energy were given to St. Dunstan's and other similar institutions for helping the blind to victory. We felt at every turn his strong personality, his marvellous grip of detail, his quick perception, his undaunted spirit of helpfulness, his intense interest in all that concerned his men in their recreation, work and after-care. Nothing seemed to escape his notice or his memory; his acts of detailed kindness were many. The welfare of St. Dunstan's was always near his heart. It seems so strange that in the midst of his influence and work he should be taken from us, but such is the all-loving and allwise purpose of Him who doeth all things well. How many thousands all the world over thank God to-day for the life He has called to rest. Those who can thank God for raising him up to do what he did can best show their gratitude by supporting with renewed energy the appeal made by his widow and son, in the midst of their deep sorrow, to continue his work. It is a happy thing, indeed, that widow and son, with the help of the splendid band of workers at St. Dunstan's, faithful, loyal, and true, have consecrated themselves to the carrying on of the work.

"It has been said that Sir Arthur Pearson was a conspicuous example of the type of character which is built up in the English parsonage. Son, grandson and great-grandson of the rectory, his ancestors and connections were largely clerical, and he was justifiably proud of being the great-grandson of the author of the hymn which we have just sung, 'Abide with Me.'

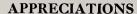
"Not many months ago Sir Arthur was present at one of the weekly services held in the little chapel at St. Dunstan's and was interested to learn that there, week by week, for some years prayer had been made for him and his staff. Over and over again, since then, he made allusion to that prayer and to the value he set upon it. One day,

perhaps, we shall know something more of the answers given to those prayers. We esteem it a great privilege in this parish church of Paddington to be linked up with the prayer - life of St. Dunstan's. The prayer desk and the oak chair used in the sanctuary of the Chapel of St. Dunstan's through the kindness of Sir Arthur were given to me and have been placed in our Memorial Chapel.

"In the calling away of our well-loved Chief surely we can hear the Master's knock at the door. To-night at our memorial service Jesus Christ asks for admission into our inmost hearts and lives. He wants to come in and make Himself known as the secret of life, and He wants to sustain us with all necessary strength for a life of devoted service. 'Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.' Let us each and all, before we leave this church, not only hear the knock, but make response to that knocking, and consecrate ourselves afresh to the service of our Lord and Master: so that, when the hour comes for us to cross the river of Death, we may find Him ready to welcome us into the Land of Everlasting Light."



SECTION OF THE HUGE CROWD PRESENT AT HAMPSTEAD CEMETERY DURING THE INTERMENT



The death of Sir Arthur Pearson has aroused a chorus of praise in honour of his work, influence and character. Brief extracts from those coming from his colleagues at the National Institute for the Blind, from public men, and appearing in the leading journals of the Kingdom are given below

'A Brilliant Brain and Great Heart'



I is now some eight years since I had the advantage of making the acquaintance of the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., and from then until the day of his lamented death on the 9th December we enjoyed an unbroken friendship, and laboured together in the interests of those who, like ourselves, have lost their sight.

"Sir Arthur was a man of great and exceptional powers and of many gifts, and these, ever since I have known him, he has devoted with unstinted and sustained effort to the cause of the sightless in general, and to that of the soldiers and sailors blinded in the war in particular. His capacity for quick decision, of at once carrying such a decision into action, and subsequently pursuing the matter with relentless energy to its end was absolutely unique.

"The various departments of his labours for the blind seemed to provide in turn a field peculiarly suitable for the exercise of one in particular of his many gifts. The required capacity, the will to exercise it, the necessary judgment in its exercise, and his watchful care of result when once reached in each particular work were the subjects of amazement and admiration on the part of all who were privileged to be his colleagues and to be in touch from day to day with what was going on under his vigilant and efficient oversight.

"In addition to the blinded men of St. Dunstan's, the civilian blind benefited by the new activities which were so largely the product of his brilliant brain and great heart.

"The great St. Dunstan's work for the blinded soldier and sailor needs no comment. The education of boys at Worcester College for the Blind has reached its present measure of efficiency and been greatly extended through Sir Arthur Pearson's altruistic devotion to the interests of the College. The College for Girls with little or no sight, at Chorley Wood, was started under his pioneer influence, and bids fair to be in due time a like blessing to the blind girls of the country. The Blind Babies' Home at 'Sunshine House, Chorley Wood, is another of his splendid activities; it is growing, and will become a very potent source of good to the blind babyhood of the country. The Homes for the Blind at Chester, at Clifton and at Brighton have all engaged Sir Arthur's attention and help. The opening of Hoole Bank, Chester, was, in fact, the last public act for the blind of his truly wonderful life.

"Sir Arthur Pearson also took a definite and particular interest in the printing and publishing of embossed literature for the blind both in the Braille and Moon types, with the result that the supply has enormously increased of late years both in quantity and variety, to the infinite advantage and pleasure of the blind.

"In every kind of helpful service to the blind-soldier and civilian, women and girls -and also to the deaf-blind, Sir Arthur's tireless energy and perfectly unique powers were ungrudgingly given, and with remarkable success. His loss to the blind of all English-speaking peoples, and, indeed, of the whole world, is great beyond compare. It is now up to every friend of the blind (including every reader of the Beacon) to seek to lessen that loss, and thereby to show their appreciation of Sir Arthur's splendid labours by making some new effort, and giving some larger measure of their powers, of their time and of their means, to the carrying on of the great cause which Sir Arthur Pearson loved so well and served so effectively. He has gone from us for ever, but the inspiration of his name and of his work remains with us to be of infinite value to the blind of all time."

> Sir WASHINGTON RANGER, D.C.L., Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind.

A Power of Strength

"It is just over eight years since Sir Arthur Pearson became blind, and little did I think, when, at a mutual friend's house, I first asked him to interest himself in the National Institute for the Blind, that he would prove such a power of strength to the whole blind world, and accomplish his great work in such a short time.

"I was aware that the whole success of his private business was entirely due to his untiring energy, resource and ability, but I never thought he would embrace our cause with such zeal, and thus merit the deep

gratitude of the blind at large.

"In his younger days he was never happier than when handling a team of four not too well-trained horses, and that is possibly why he thoroughly enjoyed directing his Committees in that masterful way peculiar to himself.

"He faced his affliction, or as he always preferred terming it, his handicap, like a man, and forgot his own troubles in trying

to help overcome those of others.

"He was quick in his decisions, and prompt in carrying out what he undertook, and never considered his own convenience

to attain his end.

"In his sudden death the Blind of the Empire have lost a true friend, one who can not be replaced, but they have gained an advantage by his splendid example. Together with his family and personal friends, thousands of sightless people will mourn his loss, but they will be truly thankful that it was willed that he should suffer as they have done."

Captain E. B. B. TOWSE, V.C., C.B.E., Vice-Chairman, Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind.

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An Astonishing Achievement

"It is almost impossible to estimate the services Sir Arthur Pearson has rendered the blind; much that he has done is known to all, yet his wide influence and his indomitable energy have done far more for the cause of the blind than is known to the general public. One fact is, however, evident to everybody—that under his guidance and by means of his wonderful ability for raising money, he has made the National Institute for the Blind the greatest institution of its kind in the world.

"When he joined the Council of the Institute, the extensive buildings in Great Portland Street were not finished, and the activities of the Institute were more or less confined to the production of Braille literature and apparatus for the blind. Now the Institute is actively engaged in innumerable directions in connection with the amelioration of the lot of sightless all over the country. With regard to the important subject of the higher education of the blind, Worcester College, the only college in the country for the higher education of blind boys, has greatly increased the number of its pupils, and has been supplied with everything that a college can want; while The Cedars, Chorley Wood, has been opened as a college for blind girls, and shows every indication of being as successful as Worcester College. With regard to homes and hostels, the Blind Women's Home at Brighton has now been open for two years, and the Clifton Home for Blind Women has been taken over by the Institute and remodelled: while the opening of Hoole Bank, Chester, as a guest-house for the aged and needy blind of gentle birth was the last official act of Sir Arthur Pearson as President of the National Institute.

"In addition to the above activities—which are but a few in which he was concerned—the output of Braille literature has been enormously increased during the period Sir Arthur Pearson presided over the policy of the Institute, and far more apparatus and material is now supplied for the blind. Many of the big institutions for the blind in this country have also benefited from the moneyraising activities of the National Institute whilst Sir Arthur was President, receiving annual contributions for the local blind.

"It is known throughout the world how Sir Arthur, delegated by the Council of the Institute to do all that was possible for the men who might lose their sight in the service of their country, started St. Dunstan's at the beginning of the War, and how he accomplished for the blinded soldier what no other man could have done. His main appeal when raising money for St. Dunstan's was that the blinded men should have the best training possible under their altered circumstances, and that they should have comfortable homes and settled employment after they left St. Dunstan's.

"Sir Arthur's position and personality largely contributed to the Government taking up the question of the blind and appointing an advisory committee on the subject, and it is just to say that the passing of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, was, to a great extent, due to him.

"All these facts may be known to readers of The Beacon, but shall we ever know how many institutions for the blind put their houses in order and improved their premises through the lead given by Sir Arthur, and how many have been able to develop through the money raised by him? We may make many conjectures, but I maintain that no one will ever know the extent of the wonderful service he rendered to the blind, and the astonishing achievement of this really great man.

"It is for one and all of us, his colleagues in the past, to see that in the future the great work that he started does not stand still."

G. F. MOWATT, J.P., Member of the Executive Council and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Institute for the Blind.

An Immense Moral Influence

"It was my privilege to be in very close touch with Sir Arthur Pearson in his daily work at St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind. It was in the earlier days of the war that I received the bullet wound which destroyed my sight, and, like almost every other blinded soldier, I came into contact with this great man while I was still in hospital. That in the very busiest times of the War, when there were literally hundreds of men pouring into St. Dunstan's every week, he should have spared the time to visit most of the London hospitals, and personally talk to every newly-blinded man. is one of the most wonderful things I can recall about him, and is the best possible evidence of his thoroughness from a business point of view, and of the depth of feeling which was in him.

"In a short note like this it is impossible to deal with the many sides of this extraordinary man's character or to praise his worth, and, indeed, were space available, words would fail. I shall, therefore, confine myself to a few remarks about two of his chief characteristics, and shall emphasise what I consider to be the real greatness of his work.

"When my first few months of training at St. Dunstan's were completed, and I began to come in contact with the men in an official capacity. I was extraordinarily struck by the personal and individual love-and I use the word advisedly-which they had for him. I studied the psychology of this phenomenon very closely, and quickly came to the conclusion that it was due not mainly to the fact that he was the founder and organiser of St. Dunstan's which was doing so much for them, but to the real affection which he felt for each one of his 'boys,' as he loved to term them. I have been in his room when he has been interviewing the men, and his extraordinary gentleness, his deep understanding of their difficulties, and with it all his amazing cheerfulness, gave rise to a lumpy feeling in one's throat which was difficult to overcome. Indeed, it was this very gentleness with which he handled all those with whom and for whom he worked that made it impossible for us not to love him, even when it was necessary for him to disapprove of this or that which had been done or left undone. Next, after the deep affection in which he was held, the thing which I admired most in Sir Arthur was his power of appreciating the value of a suggestion, seeing right through some plan which had been laid before him before one even had time to finish outlining it. With lightning speed he would sum up the advantages and disadvantages of this or that course of action, and would come to an instant decision which would be conveyed in a terse sentence of approval or disapproval. Sir Arthur never wasted words, he never wasted time, and vet there seemed to be some unerring genius within the man which made his decision, taken in a fraction of the time that would be required by ordinary men even to appreciate a particular problem, almost invariably correct.

"To appreciate this man of greatness it is necessary to go beyond the good which was directly done by him through St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind; it is necessary to think of the vast benefit which has accrued indirectly to the blind community as a result of his personal example and the examples of these organisations, and it is necessary, in addition, properly to realise the immense moral influence which his courage in facing difficulties had on the country as a whole at a time when every

section of the community was faced with distress, anxiety and even death. The 'Victory over Blindness' which he achieved and helped so many others to achieve was in my opinion the greatest possible asset to our community, and played no unimportant part in attaining the will to victory without which no nation can successfully conclude a great campaign."

Capt. IAN FRASER, who was one of Sir Arthur Pearson's principal assistants at St. Dunstan's since the early days of the war, and who has now been appointed Chairman of the Care and After-Care Committee. He is also a member of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind.

"A Magnetic Personality"

"Death—sudden and tragic—has removed a great philanthropist and a magnetic

personality from among us.

"I became acquainted with Sir Arthur Pearson in 1912, when his sight was fast failing and there was no prospect of its recovery. I was then greatly impressed by the courageous spirit with which he met the inevitable. He told me then that he was determined not to retire from the world and take life easily, as he could well have afforded to do, but to devote his life to the cause of those who, like himself, were suffering from a heavy handicap. The whole civilised world knows how faithfully he kept his word.

"A man of boundless energy, great natural ability and quick decision, it was sometimes hard to keep pace with him. He crowded into one day what would occupy an average man two or three days to accomplish, and he kept this up, to my own personal knowledge, for the whole of the ten years I worked with him. He could not brook slackness or inefficiency, but it was sometimes difficult to convince him that not everyone else had the same fine business qualities which he possessed. There were many points in his character which I greatly admired, and not the least of these his great love for little children.

"His greatest interest was in the cause of the blind. He revelled in the fact that through his instrumentality many thousands of slum children enjoyed periods of rest and change in lovely country places; he worked like a galley slave during the early days of the war to raise money for the Prince of Wales' Fund and was conspicuously successful; he took an active interest in many other similar undertakings, but the blind were his chief concern. He not only adopted their cause, but believed in it and persistently advocated it. He created an 'atmosphere' in favour of the blind, and convinced the world that, although a heavy handicap, blindness is not an insuperable barrier to success. We can scarcely realise that it is less than 140 years ago since work of any definite kind on behalf of the sightless was first undertaken. Much, very much remains to be accomplished, but the advances made during the last decade have been phenomenal. Among those who have brought about this condition the name of Cyril Arthur Pearson must hold the most conspicuous place."

HENRY STAINSBY.

Secretary-General, National Institute for the Blind; Member of the St. Dunstan's Committee.

From Public Men

"The whole Empire will mourn the death of one who was, above all, the friend of our blinded soldiers, and out of his own affliction created hope for them in place of despair."

Rt. Hon. IAN MACPHERSON, K.C., M.P.

"Sir Arthur was himself a splendid example of energy, enthusiasm, and determination to overcome difficulties. Thousands of blind men will bless him as they mourn his loss to-day."

Lt.-Gen. Sir ROBERT BADEN-POWELL.

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"Throughout life he lived to help others, and brought many a ray of sunshine to many a humble home."

Sir HARRY BRITTAIN, M.P.

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"Arthur Pearson was, above all things, vital. He was a man typical of all the best in his race—its courage, its fortitude, and its essential sympathy with misfortune. Great as have been his services to the blind, greatest of all was, and will remain, his shining example of triumph over adversity, achieved by sheer force of courage and moral staunchness."

T. P. O'CONNOR, M.P.

TELEGRAMS OF CONDOLENCE

Amongst the various expressions of sympathy and condolence addressed to Lady Pearson, the following telegrams were received:—

From Their Majesties the King and Oueen...

"The King and Queen are shocked and distressed to hear of the grievous loss which has befallen you through a fatal accident to Sir Arthur Pearson, and I am commanded to convey to you the assurances of Their Majesties' heartfelt sympathy. Their Majesties feel that his fellow-countrymen will gratefully remember the noble work accomplished by Sir Arthur in alleviating and brightening the lives of those suffering from that affliction which he himself had borne with such exemplary patience, courage and cheerfulness.—STAMFORDHAM."

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From H.R.H. Edward, Prince of Wales—
"Please accept my deepest sympathy in your sad loss.—EDWARD P."

From H.M. Queen Alexandra -

"Too distressed and horrified for words for the terribly sad and distressing news of your beloved husband's death. Words fail me to express all I feel for you and us all at the loss of so great and valuable a man and friend to us all. God comfort you.—ALEXANDRA."

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"My thoughts and prayers never leave you for a moment in your terrible loss and agony. Your beloved husband's loss is truly a national one, as well as a loss to us all as a personal friend. My thoughts never leave you for a moment.—ALEXANDRA."

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From the Princess Royal.

"My deepest sympathy with you."

From H.R.H. Princess Victoria-

"My sister Maud and I wish to express our heartfelt sympathy in this terrible sorrow. What a loss he will be.—VICTORIA."

From H.R.H. Princess Christian.

"Accept expression of my sincere sympathy in your great sorrow.—PRINCESS CHRISTIAN."

From H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll...

"Accept my sincerest sympathy in your great sorrow. His loss will be universally mourned. He made darkness day to many lives.—PRINCESS LOUISE."

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From H.R.H. Princess Beatrice.

"So deeply grieved at tragedy and your great loss. Pray accept my heartfelt sympathy.—BEATRICE."

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From H.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone-

"Heartfelt sympathy in your sorrow. Your husband's noble work was an inspiration to all.—ATHLONE, ALICE."

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From the Prime Minister-

"My wife and I are deeply shocked to hear of the tragic death of your husband. The loss of such a public benefactor will be very widely felt, and he will ever be remembered by the wonderful part which he has played in brightening the lives of those suffering under a terrible affliction. Please accept our most sincere sympathy. —D. LLOYD GEORGE."

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From the Canadian Prime Minister-

"The Government of Canada convey to you deepest sympathy in the sad loss of your distinguished husband, and desires to express its profound appreciation of the work which he did for blinded Canadian soldiers at St. Dunstan's during the Great War, and for the further interest which he took during his lifetime in the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, this having been of incalculable service to Canadian soldiers, all of whom regarded him as a benefactor and a friend.—ARTHUR MEIGHEN, Prime Minister of Canada."

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"Am inexpressibly grieved to learn of Sir Arthur's death. His loss to the world is incalculable. The blind of Canada, who owe him so much, extend their deep sympathy, and I, with hundreds of Canadians who knew Sir Arthur personally, mourn the loss of a warm-hearted and generous friend.—L. M. WOOD, President Canadian National Institute for the Blind."



ST. DUNSTAN'S

Sir Arthur Pearson's Great Work for Blinded Soldiers





T is difficult, indeed almost impossible, to imagine what would have been the lot of those who lost their sight in the most devastating war which the world has ever seen, had there been no St. Dunstan's. Beloved Alma'Mater

of the blinded soldier and sailor.

right proudly it bears its record of achievement and victory. With its main buildings and annexes, its homes in the metropolis, in the country and at the sea-sidemany tentacles which it has pushed forth all over England —the name of St. Dunstan's is a familiar one wherever the English tongue is spoken.

From small beginnings arise great things. It was when Mr. Otto Kahn, the American financier, had generously placed his residence in Regent's Park, with its grounds extending over 15 acres, at the disposal of Sir Arthur Pearson, and certain necessary alterations

were being completed, that the nucleus of St. Dunstan's work was formed at a house in Bayswater Hill, lent by Mrs. Lewis Hall. There, in February, 1915, came two blinded soldiers, and by the end of March, when the move to St. Dunstan's was effected, sixteen men were being tended at the hostel. Before the end of 1918, over 1,500 men were being cared for, and five large establishments, besides several annexes in the provinces, were full to overflowing. The original house was first of all increased in size, then the gardens became covered with workshops,

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TWO BLIND MEN OF ST. DUNSTAN'S WITH THEIR SOLDIER GUIDES HOLDING THE FLORAL UNION JACK WHICH PRECEDED THE COFFIN AT THE FUNERAL.

class-rooms. offices. storehouses. chapels and recreation rooms, and a large building was erected, known as the Bungalow Annexe. Then a large house was taken in Sussex Place, and was reserved entirely for those men who were learning massage. The college of the Baptist Church, in the Outer Circle of the Park, was lent to Sir Arthur. Three large houses in Cornwall Terrace were thrown into one, and in Titchfield Terrace ten houses were taken for the accommodation of V. A. D.'s and for the entertainment of relations of the blinded men. Finally, in 1920, the main St. Dunstan's offices. class-rooms and workshops were removed from Mr. Otto Kahn's house to St. John's

Lodge, the Inner Circle, Regent's Park, which, acquired on long lease, now forms the headquarters of St. Dunstan's.

Such, in brief, are the bare outlines of the growth of St. Dunstan's, from a house in Bayswater with two blinded men, into the huge organization it now is, caring for the welfare and interests of nearly 2,000 blinded soldiers in all parts of the world, and still training a constant stream of newcomers from the 23,000 men who—the Ministry of Pensions' records show—were discharged from the Army with damaged sight.

The text on which Sir Arthur Pearson based his gospel of Victory over Blindness was "Help the blind to help themselves." The basis of his scheme of training was to bring out of each individual his inherent strength and fortitude, and to build on that rock foundation a new being, capable of grappling with new conditions and emerging triumphant over misfortune. He, himself, was the living proof of the success of such a method. Stricken blind at the height of a busy and phenomenally successful career, he hurled defiance at despair, and by his own manly efforts converted mischance into chance, accepting it with typical unrelenting decision, and creating from it a work which unborn generations will bless.

With the key to his method, therefore, in mind, we may say that every man who has passed through St. Dunstan's has himself laid another brick to, and cemented the structure of, that heroic enterprise. Sir Arthur Pearson was in no sense of the word a pedant. He, of all men, knew what he was talking about. What he had passed through and overcome himself another man could conquer. It was for him to show the way, to point out the sharp corners, the danger spots, of that uphill climb to light, but not to accompany each individual and guide him in leading strings unknowingly along that difficult road. That way would have destroyed half the effect of the remedy. The better way was the one he adopted of putting all his own experience at the disposal of each man, giving them all he had to give them, and then with a brave "God-speed" sending them off to work out their own salvation. The proof of the astounding success of this method is evident in all places of the Empire where a pupil of St. Dunstan's has set up his happy and contented home.

Let us now see in detail how this result has been attained, and endeavour to give an outline of the life of the blinded man from the time he enters the gates of St. Dunstan's until the day he leaves, equipped for his new life—how, in fact, he is taught to be blind.

The original St. Dunstan's, as stated above, was a splendid house in Regent's Park, one of the prettiest spots in London, where a city resident could wish for no more charming surroundings. The spacious grounds were filled with trees and flowers and picturesque corners, and was a notable spot in London before the war: but then came an additional feature of interest in the view. A little city grew up around St. Dunstan's of wooden huts, of paths and steps bordered by wooden rails for the blind men to feel their way, workshops, class-rooms, and play-rooms. Inside the buildings strips of linoleum, laid down the middle of the carpets, enabled the blind man to track his course, and one would often meet whole strings of them, arms on shoulders, coming along at a good pace, laughing, joking, and whistling. There was no place for tears at St. Dunstan's, and many people have declared that they have never been in an atmosphere more wholly impregnated with hope and courage'

The newly-blinded man came to St. Dunstan's more often than not despairing of the future, and apparently incapable of fighting against his terrible handicap. He met Sir Arthur Pearson, and from that first interview the star of hope arose on his horizon. By hearing a few forcible words, by the knowledge that he who spoke them with such courage and conviction was himself blind, the man's whole outlook changed. He was brought from the dark pit to which his loss had seemed to consign him out into the busy world of men again. And then he went to school.

Although the headquarters of St. Dunstan's work is now no longer the house so generously lent for the purpose by Mr. Otto Kahn, the training of the blinded soldier is continued in exactly the same manner under even better conditions at the new headquarters, St. John's Lodge, Regent's Park. The following brief details, therefore, apply not only to the methods of training the blinded soldier initiated in the early days, but to those which are employed at the present time at St. John's Lodge.

The blinded soldier is first of all taught the simplest things; how to move and walk and eat naturally; how, as far as possible, to be self-dependent. He is not petted and pitted; he is taught to keep himself au fait with the world's affairs, to earn his living under new conditions and to do things for himself.

At St. Dunstan's there is the education of the classroom and of the workshop. A man works during the morning in the former, in the latter during the afternoon—or vice versa—trom 9.30 to 12 and from 2.30 to 4.30. It is easily conceivable that the mental strain on a blind man learning a trade is great; hence, short hours. That is one of the main reasons why St. Dunstan's men have learned their new jobs in such an astonishingly short time.

The men learn Braille in the classrooms, a difficult task, depending a great deal on the delicacy of touch, which, naturally, in most cases has to be acquired. As a break, they learn netting, which can be ranked as a hobby rather than an industry, although it is a good provider of pocket money.

All blind men learn typewriting, and very quickly become proficient. A blind man's handwriting gradually becomes worse and worse; therefore typewriting is taught, not so much as an occupation, but as a necessity of the blind man's life.

Once able to read and write, the blind soldier receives a typewriter as a gift, and arrangements are made with the National Institute for the Blind to supply him with free Braille reading matter for the rest of his life.

Now let us turn to the workshops. These are veritable hives of industry, and to see these blinded men buckling to would give every sighted person a wholesome lesson. Cobbling is taught, and in six or seven months a blind man can sole and heel a pair of shoes as well as any sighted cobbler. Mat-making is learned, in conjunction with this trade, to tide over slack times, and the two occupations together give a blind man constant and paying employment. This is proved by letters from old St. Dunstan's men now established in business all over the world.

Basket - making, the proverbial blind man's employment, is also taught, and the market demands are carefully studied so that the men may turn out the right sort of article. The varieties, of course, are numerous.

Then there are the carpentry and joinery workshops. To see these gallant fellows turning out picture frames, cupboards, teatrays, etc., is wonderful. And the earnings are very good,

These industries are acquired in a quarter of the time formerly thought necessary. One of the main reasons is that blind teachers are freely employed. The pupil, knowing that his master is labouring under a similar handicap to his, is spurred on to do likewise. He starts with the knowledge that all is possible; the proof is before him. Knowing that the teacher has had to encounter the same, difficulties, the learner is enabled to get on at a much quicker pace.

Poultry - farming is another industry taught at St. Dunstan's. The men who think of taking up this occupation are taught on the most up-to-date lines, and can soon manage incubators, prepare birds for the table, know different breeds instantaneously by touch—in fact, they become first-rate poultry farmers. In addition, there is a very good arrangement by which the mother, wife or sister of the blinded soldier who is going in for this work is sent down, free of charge, to some big poultry-farm in the country, where she likewise acquires the rudiments of the art.

Three occupations are open for the higher educated men. The first of these is massage, which a well-trained blind man can take up as a profession with even greater success than a sighted person. Arrangements are made whereby St. Dunstaners are trained at the School of Massage of the National Institute for the Blind. The course consists of a thorough training in anatomy, physiology and pathology. During the course students are required to treat patients in hospital, and finally they pass the examinations of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics. which are most severe. We purposely say "pass" instead of "sit for them," because, so far, this is the rule with the St. Dunstan's students. Many of them are now regularly employed in hospitals or have been set up in private practices of their own.

An educated blind man can also become a secretary. He can learn at St. Dunstan's shorthand as well as typewriting, the former by means of a most ingenious machine, which enables the most highly contracted form of Braille to be taken down at a good speed. St. Dunstan's train blinded men until they have acquired a speed of a hundred words per minute.

The third occupation is telephone operating. This, to the sighted person, would seem impossible; but with the drop-shutter system the blind man can operate an exchange perfectly by sound, and there are men from St. Dunstan's filling quite satisfactorily very good positions.

Apart from work, a great deal of play goes on at St. Dunstan's, and the blind men put as much "ginger" into their games as "snap" into their work. They walk, they swim, they row, they run races, they dance. There is scarcely a man who does not play some sort of musical instrument, from the organ down to the tin whistle. They play indoor games, chess, draughts, dominoes, cards—in fact, on any evening at St. Dunstan's there is bound to be something doing. The staff is indefatigable; there are always concerts and tournaments, debates, or other entertainments, and all of first-class quality.

People often ask: "What of the blind man when he leaves St. Dunstan's?" He is looked after by the After-Care Organisation, and it is this work which we should like specially to emphasise. It might naturally be feared that, far from the vigorous, inspiriting-one might even add, gay-atmosphere of St. Dunstan's, left to himself, a blind man alone amongst the sighted, the graduate of St. Dunstan's would find it hard to become a normal British citizen, mingling in business and pleasure with his fellowcreatures. There is bound to be a certain regret and consequent reaction after leaving St. Dunstan's, but the After-Care Organisation looks after the man who has gone away. Once a St. Dunstaner, always a St. Dunstaner. By means of a first-class organisation, this great business enterprise keeps in touch with old St. Dunstan's men, no matter where they may be, and, in short, looks after them for the rest of their lives. They are provided with raw materials at cost price, and markets are found for their finished products. They are visited by regular technical and social visitors, whose aim is to render them every assistance, both material and mental, with the result that the blinded men come to St. Dunstan's with any troubles that may arise, and St. Dunstan's helps and aids them. An Employment Bureau is run to assure constant work for professional men, and the health of the blinded soldiers and their families is made a special feature of the organisation's activities.

The former director of this activity, Captain Ian Fraser, who was one of Sir Arthur's principal assistants at St. Dunstan's since the early days of the war, has now been appointed Chairman of the Care and After-Care Committees, while Lady Pearson, D.B.E., has been nominated President. The Vere-Presidents are Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., and Sir Neville Pearson, Bt.

Thus the noble work of Sir Arthur Pearson for blinded soldiers is being continued. and under the new directorate, and with the co-operation of the blinded men themselves. should lead to new fields of triumph for the soldiers who sacrificed their sight in the war. It seems as though each man who has been through St. Dunstan's has taken unto himself a certain quantity of that splendid spirit of endeavour and progress which characterised the founder of the blind men's university, with the result that, search the Empire through, one could not find a more intrepid band of adventurers than those who have passed through the devious ways of darkness to a land where, although the light of the sun is gone, stars of hope are always shining.

THE ARTHUR PEARSON MEMORIAL FUND

L ADY PEARSON, who has always worked so hard and so successfully in the cause of the blind, has crowned her work by initiating an effort which will endear her still more to the sightless. Notwithstanding her most grievous personal loss, she was the first to think of the blind her husband loved so well, and in their interest she has started the Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund, by which means, and with the aid of an ever-generous public, she hopes, to quote her own words, "to inspire a great stream of thanksgiving, bearing on its tide perpetual encouragement for all who dwell here in darkness."

The proceeds of the Fund, after deducting expenses and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for SirArthur's Fresh Air Fund, are to be devoted as follows: One-third to St. Dunstan's, one-third to the National Institute for the Blind, while the remaining third is for the benefit of the blind throughout the Empire.

All particulars in connection with this subject will be found on the Beacon cover.

"A VERY HUMAN UNDERSTANDING GENTLEMAN"

By F. Le. Gros Clark, a Blinded St. Dunstan's Officer



ECESSARILY the impression that Sir Arthur Pearson made upon me was a sharply personal one—the impression (if I may play with the metaphor) of sure precise fingers upon a mind that was temporarily very plastic to the world. Later on, when the last few years have fallen into perspective and when biographers have done their work

with him, one may have a clear-cut picture of 'C. A. P.'—his spirit, spring-like in its force and unwasted fitness, his humour and memory, his unusual perception of all the ordinary and fundamental hopes and likings of the modern Briton. But just now my sense of him is entirely personal; probably

I am not alone in this.

"The end of the War left me, and many of my contemporaries, rather child-like in the puzzling world we had suddenly to enter—and rather school-boyish in the new education that we knew to be inevitable. At that moment a force, rather like a stream of cold water, broke through upon me. Its medium was a letter from Sir Arthur, then starting for his American trip. It offered me not, as I read it, comfort, or release, or even certainty—merely the contact of an immensely bracing ideal. There was to be no compulsion; my will was still my own; if I cared for it . . . there it was.

"This, I concluded, is a man's offer to one who still believes himself a man. Sir Arthur's presence, when I later met him, was only a clearer display of his personality than his letters had been. It braced me, just as if the spring of my own mind had been wound a little tighter by contact with his.

"There were many in the same relation with Sir Arthur as I was myself. We were not journalists or secretarial workers or even 'the Public.' We were men relegated, as I say, to a certain period of childhood and school-work. In this period Sir Arthur

stood to us as a dominant influence. cannot speak of others: but to me, during these months, he replaced something my real childhood had found a deep necessity. This was not the idea of a Father (I think we were all too proud to rely on 'C. A. P.'). nor that of a Schoolmaster-(most of us were too eager to need driving). But just as in one's childhood, when all seemed gloomy, one turned for a stimulant to Lancelot. Ulysses, and Hereward the Wake-so in the second period of struggle one used Sir Arthur -he himself would have commended the word-as a fresh breeze, a strong, sinewy, unconquerable thing. I don't mean that I made a hero of him. Hereward the Wake and Lancelot were not heroes to me but very human understanding gentlemen. That phrase might sum up 'C. A. P.,' because, above all things, one sensed in him the same struggles and problems that were meeting oneself. This was not because he was blind, but because he attacked his blindness as an ambitious man would like to attack it. These are the problems of evading stupid attention, of beating down pity, of conserving energy to the last ounce, and above all, of keeping abreast of the intellects of one's time. I do not say that Sir Arthur's solution of these huge problems was the final one. He was a pioneer. But I do believe that I have, in my present difficulties, gained more from a tireless study of the way in which Sir Arthur met them, than from all the rest of the training at St. Dunstan's put together . . . and my gain from this has not been small."



NOT once in darkness did your courage fail, Serving their need who shared your dawnless night;

Now from your eyes has God withdrawn the veil,

And on your vision breaks the larger light. —Punch.

ALWAYS AT WORK FOR THE BLIND

Below are given a few brief facts with regard to Sir Arthur Pearson's connection with various bodies of workers for the blind community correlated to the National Institute for the Blind.

Worcester College

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON was elected Chairman of the Governors of Worcester College in 1919. Since that year the National Institute for the Blind has rendered substantial monetary aid to the college. The scope of its activities has thereby increased in a marked degree, and a larger number of students is received than was formerly possible.

The Moon Society

On the death of Miss Moon, in 1914, the Moon Society was taken over by the National Institute for the Blind. Sir Arthur Pearson became one of the trustees, and retained such trusteeship until his lamented death. The Moon Society is the only one in the world which publishes the Moon type, so readily learnt by folk who have lost their sight in later life.

Home Teaching Society

Sir Arthur Pearson became a member of the Home Teaching Society in 1915, and it was at his instigation that the society became affiliated to the National Institute for the Blind in the same year. In December, 1915, he was elected Chairman of the society, and he became its Hon. Treasurer in September, 1919.

Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs

Sir Arthur Pearson was unanimously elected the first President of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs, which was formed in accordance with a general wish expressed by many blind masseurs for some kind of official representation. It was registered and incorporated under the Board of Trade on the 3rd July, 1919, and was formed in order to promote the welfare and protect and advance the interests of qualified blind masseurs and masseurs.

In the initial stages of its formation, very practical help was rendered by Sir Arthur, and in its later stages he always retained a very keen interest in its welfare, in addition to rendering it considerable financial assistance.

IN MEMORIAM "C. A. P."

YOU would not have us grieve at Fate's fierce blow,
You who turned blindness to a braver

You who turned blindness to a braver cause,

But glory in the tributes we may show

To one who triumphed over Nature's laws And said: "I will not own that I am blind.

Whilst I have will to work, and brain to will,

Whilst I can prove man's eyes are in his mind,

No man my faith shall break, my purpose kill."

Pity the Blind! You turned that cry to scorn, And gave us sight to see your flaming creed:

So that, in place of Pity, there was born

Deep Understanding, Pity's fruitful seed. In pride we watched you, when the god of War

Flung on Life's shore his wreckage, maimed and blind. Build a great Lighthouse; there from near

Came young men broken sore in limb and mind.

Pity the Blind! You gave them laughter, life,

New hopes, new aims, a path of work again;

You gave them weapons for their grisly strife,

That each who would might victory attain.
We must not grieve for you, we will not weep,

But rather hide our grief with smiling

So that, when to us all comes our Last Sleep, We too may say: "The ways of God are wise."

> E. Le Breton Martin. (formerly General Editor of the National Institute for the Blind)



"A striking example of the triumph of character and determination. He made his private loss the world's gain. He knew, as no seeing philanthropist could, the needs of the blind, and to their welfare devoted himself."—The Times.

"Sir Arthur Pearson will be remembered neither for his achievements in business nor for his unsuspected private taste in art, but for his quiet sacrifice of all ease, and leisure, and his own desires, to the help and comfort not only of the stricken soldiers, but of the blind all the world over. Few men have won gratitude more enduring; none is more grievously mourned to-day."—

Morning Post.

"He was idolised by all who came into contact with him. He revolutionised the ideas of benevolence and charity throughout the world."—Daily Telegraph.

"Sir Arthur will probably be best remembered as the man who snatched the triumph of his life out of its tragedy."—Daily Chronicle.

"A man of achievement, a strong, vivid, radiant figure of energy, enthusiasm, and human affection. Arthur Pearson was one of those rare men who are born for a purpose, and who, having achieved that purpose, are taken away to be remembered as flaming examples to posterity. Never has man rendered greater service to fellowstricken man."—Daily Express.

"His triumph over darkness and the wonderful way in which he carried on with the normal detail of life were the fruits of an admirable and indomitable courage."—Daily Herald.

"Sir Arthur Pearson proved, during his years of blindness, that the intrinsic courage of the soul, its faith, its generosity, can rise high above bodily affliction. He has left us a great example and a noble memory."—Daily Mail.

"A passionate sympathy inspired and dignified his extraordinary energy and organising power. The work which he did was a national work in the best and highest sense of the word."—Daily News.

"His great work at St. Dunstan's and for the National Institute for the Blind has made his name honoured throughout the Englishspeaking world."—Daily Sketch.

"The encouragement which the blind derived from one who, though afflicted like themselves, could find cheerful interests in life and accomplish great and beneficent achievements, will not easily be replaced."—Morning Advertiser.

"No man ever rose more triumphantly above a physical difficulty. The work of Sir Arthur Pearson's that will live the longest in the memory was the work of a blind man aiding others who had lost their sight to have something of his own confidence in life and of his own cheery conviction that, whatever may be the handicap of blindness, a man of spirit can still rise superior to the affliction."—Westminster Gazette.

"Sir Arthur was known to all as 'the blind man's friend."—Evening News.

"The career of Sir Arthur Pearson is at once a romance and a glory. This fight against the foe of physical darkness—a magnificent struggle—undoubtedly owes the major part of its success to the virile personality, the optimism, and the genius of a man who would never acknowledge defeat. He treated blindness from a new angle: he cut out entirely the word 'pity' and the word 'affliction,' and insisted that blind people, above all others, must be cheerful, with a wide, humorous outlook. Sir Arthur's cheerfulness in affliction, his joy of life in spite of it was, indeed, as a bright light in a dark world."—Evening Standard.

"His work in connection with the National Institute for the Blind is an Imperial legacy."
—Methodist Times.

Hundreds of Charities rolled into one, affecting the lives of Hundreds of Thousands

One of England's great ones has gone to his rest, leaving a work which you can complete for him

The Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund

(Registered under the Blind Persons Act, 1920)

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, REGENT'S PARK, LONDON

Patroness:

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra,

who, writing to Lady Pearson, said:

"Of course it will give me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to be the patroness of the Fund which you and your son are creating as a permanent endowment for all the charities in which your beloved husband was interested."

THE OBJECTS OF THE FUND

The object of this appeal is to create a Memorial Fund for the permanent benefit of the philanthropic enterprises in which Sir Arthur Pearson was interested. The net proceeds are intended to be apportioned as to one-third to St. Dunstan's for the Care and After-Care of the soldiers and sailors blinded to St. Dunstan's for the Care and Farter-Care of the soldiers and sailors blinded to courageously carrying on their fight asainst difficulties almost insuperable. As to one-third to the National Institute for the Blind, that great organisation which in itself financially assists no less than 50 Institutions for the Blind and which produces almost the whole of the embossed books and magazines out the Empire upon the footing of giving to the blind charities of each country a benefit in proportion to the subscriptions of that country. The Ministry of Health has agreed to render every possible assistance in apportioning these benefits amongst the participating societies in this country. Before any of this Sir Arthur's first charity, which has sent so many hundreds of thousands of little children from our great towns for a holiday in the country.

Please send or do something to-day to help the work which he has done:

Address, Lady Pearson, D.B.E., The Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund, St. John's Lodge, Regent's Park, London



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

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HE prices of the following publications are subject to a discount of seventy-five per cent, for readers who are resident in the British Isles, and to a discount of fifty per cent. for residents in the British Colonies and Dependencies.

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TREBEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. VI.-No. 62.

FEBRUARY, 1922.

PRICE 3D.

THE ECONOMICS OF INDUSTRY.—III

"If this be error and upon me proved,"
I never writ, nor no man ever loved."
(Shelespear

(Shakespeare.)

N the blind world we are frequently told that it is "Not charity the workers require, but justice; and this justice is best expressed by conditions of regular employment and decent remuneration."

However hackneyed the foregoing observations may be, and however improperly comprehended the sentiments are by

those who use such phrases, they nevertheless express, with the necessary qualifications, the correct attitude of mind that should be adopted towards the great problem, even by those who are keenly handicapped in the struggle for existence.

If we clearly examine the premises in the light of revealed facts, it will be at once apparent that this view-point, without the qualifications of which we speak, represents nothing but the merest platitude, but that shorn of the verbiage in which the principle is clothed, the view-point is not essentially unreasonable.

In order that we may the more clearly appreciate the true value and significance of the postulate, we must place in juxtaposition to the notion stated above the following formula, viz.: that having regard to the capacity of the average blind worker and to the character of the industry in which he is engaged, he cannot, by his own unaided efforts, earn more than sufficient to provide for his own sustenance.

Submitted to a close analysis, it is doubtful even if the average industrial worker can do this, but, for the purposes of the argument only, it is conceded. Therefore, if this view-point is substantially true, then it follows of necessity that some form of charity must be available to make good any legitimate deficiency that may arise, to enable the individual to discharge the obligations which devolve upon him. Every added responsibility increases his demand upon the common stock of the necessities of I'fe, and to make good such deficiencies the act of charity, benevolence, phil-anthropy, or whatever you like to term it, is perforce invoked.

If such charity means the institution of an act of helpfulness or liberality to the poor in the ordinary acceptation of the word, it must carry with it a much wider interpretation in the economic sense, and it is to this aspect of the matter that we must here confine our attention and treatment

Let us look at the formula again for a moment: "Having regard to the capacity of the average blind worker and to the character of the industry in which he is engaged, he cannot, by his own unaided efforts, earn more than sufficient to provide for his own sustenance."

If we examine the laws governing wealth production, it will be at once apparent that any individual claiming the rank of citizenship must either be a wealth producer or an instrument or agency whose functions are directed to the production of wealth, and it will be at once conceded

that if he is to discharge the obligations of citizenship he must not only be able, by his own productive activities to earn sufficient for his own needs, but be capable also of so energising as to secure such a margin of wealth as to minister to the needs of those who are dependent upon him. Every citizen, therefore, who fails to comply with these salient conditions imposes a toll on the rest of the community, and if society permits him to exist it does so purely as an act of charity or benevolence.

It may be that some of our friends will not find this process of reasoning quite to their taste, but the fact remains that in this work-a-day world you either have to exist upon the result of your own energies, or, in order to live, you impose a toll upon

some other man's labour.

If the blind industrial worker had exclusively to rely upon his bare capacity for production and the wages conditioned entirely as a result of such capacity, he would undoubtedly have a very bad time. It is because of the fact that supplementary aid is available that his condition to-day is what we find it to be. It is admitted unreservedly that his standard of life ought and must be improved, but no useful purpose is served by attempting to throw dust in the eyes of people by the enunciation of the view that he can, under any condition of organised commercial enterprise, win for himself such a standard of life as is essential by the exercise of his own unaided productive capacity.

It is distasteful to be classified as a recipient of charity, and with that viewpoint we entirely concur, but the greater our activities in the future in the direction of efficient industrial training, the less need will there be to rely upon the instrument of benevolence. In proportion as e industrial worker becomes speedy and efficient, in like proportion will the need for organised charity be diminished; but it is inconceivable that it will ever be possible wholly to disregard some form of philanthropic activity. Whether the act of benevolence emanates from private individuals, from the voluntary institutions, from the municipalities, or from the State, it is not rendered less an act of charity because of the medium employed for its administration, and, therefore, our conclusion is that while we are justified in striving to make every member of the

blind community as independent as is possible, it will always be necessary to make good his handicap by providing the material things which his labour value fails to secure, and the very fact that you must make such provision, we repeat, invokes an act of charity or benevolence.

While we have no desire to labour unduly the main contentions here stated, it is of prime importance that our exact position should be properly understood. Therefore, at the risk of being considered somewhat tedious and prolix, we venture further to amplify the opinions expressed above. Perhaps the following method will best illustrate what we have already

been striving to convey:

"A" is a sightless industrial worker of average capacity. By his industry he is ably to comply with the conditions of our formula: that is, by his own unaided efforts, he can give such labour value as yields to him in the form of real wages an amount sufficient to secure a minimum standard of life. Improving his knowledge by workshop experience, "A" becomes a better-equipped artisan, and his productivity is somewhat accelerated. but only to the extent of enabling him to provide more adequately for his own personal needs. Eventually, however, our workman marries, and, for a limited time, perhaps because of the fact that his partner is also a wage-earner, his economic status is correspondingly improved. But this, in the majority of cases, is only a temporary condition, for, in the natural course of things, the time arrives when the woman is no longer economically free, and must depend entirely upon her husband for subsistence, which, in itself, adds an additional responsibility and depletes his purchasing power. Not only so, however, but every added responsibility brings into play additional and important factors, for the children born of such a union must necessarily lower the general standard of life and impose anxiety upon the bread-winner, for the process results in reducing the economic status of the family to a level where life becomes almost intolerable.

This assumption is based on the fundamental notion that no additional help is forthcoming to the individual apart from his own economic worth. In the past these conditions were only too numerous. They exist to-day in a modified form,

but with this essential difference: that whereas formerly the scantiest piece-work conditions prevailed, to-day no one who really counts is satisfied to pay even much higher rates without having regard to the fact that further supplementary assistance must be provided. "A" may not receive help so substantially as his circumstances warrant, but it is at least satisfactory to realise that the conception of his need is recognised, and that efforts-almost titanic efforts-are being made to bring to him the succour which everyone recognises should be available. The principle of every active help and co-operation is at work in every decent agency throughout the country, and will find its fulfilment only in proportion as we are determined to revolutionise the old order of things.

Thus the final conclusion to which we are irresistibly drawn as a result of our process of reasoning is, that in the sphere of industrial employment, the earnings of blind workers must be considerably augmented if they are to enjoy a rational existence. To dub them the recipients of charity is, to say the least of it, not the kindliest method of conveying the idea at the instrument of benevolence must

be made to yield to them an agreed amount either in money or in kind, represented by an assessment of their

incapacity.

In like manner also, such eatch phrases as those quoted in the first paragraph of this article are equally misleading. If they are uttered in ignorance, we may at ast reasonably hope that the growth of intelligence among the workers will teach them the folly of a mere dependence . on meaningless platitudes.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY

POCKET EDITIONS.

Constant Electric Current in Treatment, use of, by A. R. Friel, M.D.

Ionic Medication in the Treatment of Neurotic and Rheumatic Pains, by W. F. Somerville, M.D. Loose Cartilage, by Vernon Pennell, M.A.

Mountain Climates in Health and Disease, by

Bernard Hudson, M.D. Orthopædic Surgery, by A. H. Tubby, C.B. Physical Treatment of Enteroptosis, by Cortlandt Macmahon, M.A.

Rheumatoid Arthritis, by Naunton Davies, F.R.C.S

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS EXAMINATIONS

special feature of the recital given A special reactive by Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus.Bae., L.R.A.M., F.R.C.O. (Music Librarian, National Library for the Blind), at the National Institute on Wednesday, December 7th, was the inclusion in his programme of the test pieces for the January F.R.C.O. Examination. Among the audience were sighted, as well as blind candidates, and as the organ is a facsimile of that at the Royal College of Organists, conditions were particularly favourable for the presentation of these

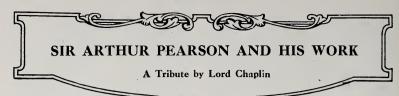
The organ may be used for practice free of charge by any blind R.C.O. candidates, and of the thirteen who have entered for the January Examinations, nine have been very glad to avail themselves of this opportunity of becoming intimate with the instrument. The examination results are as follows: F.R.C.O., J. Wyeth; A.R.C.O., Messrs. Avery,

Liviny, Neill and Trash.

INCREASED PENSIONS FOR THE BLIND

THE Charity Commissioners have sanctioned a new scheme for the administration of West's charities for the blind distributed by the Clothworkers' Company. Under the trust 650 blind people receive pensions, which under the new scheme have been increased from £15 0 £25 a year, while the income limit must not exceed £45 in the case of persons under fifty years old, and £47 10s. in the ease of those over fifty. The age-limit of pensioners has also been reduced from fifty to twenty-one. The income from West's charity amounts to £4,700 a year, and the total income from all the blind charities administered by the Clothworkers' Company is slightly over £9,000 a year.—The Times.

THE list of wreaths sent on the oceasion of the funeral of the late Sir Arthur Pearson, and given in last month's issue. should have included that from the South Vorkshire Branch of the National Institute for the Blind. We regret the omission.



The following letter appeared in The

Times of January 14th:—
To the Editor of The Times.

Sir,—The loss of Sir Arthur Pearson, the head and leader of the institute which he created at St. Dunstan's, will be wellnigh irreparable; and he will be mourned by thousands of blind people both here and in other lands across the seas, where his great work has borne fruit, as well. For they owe to him and his teaching and example, in countless cases, not only the means of earning a livelihood for themselves, but a change from what otherwise would have been a life of helplessness and of black despair, to one of comparative cheerfulness and hope; with an object set before each one and all of them to live for, and to which they can dedicate their energies for the years which may remain for them in future. And a better, a higher, or more noble work than that which he inspired and carried out with such marvellous success, no man could wish for or desire.

It was my privilege to have known and worked for him for many years before he was afflicted with his great calamity. Our first acquaintance was on this wise. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, so to speak, had found and induced him to undertake the chairmanship of the Tariff Reform League. A first-rate man of business, full of energy and go, and a determined supporter of the policy, he was just the man whom, from the moment I was satisfied that a continuance of Free Trade unchecked must inevitably mean our dependence on foreign corn for the great staple of our food at home, I should have wished to see appointed; and, added to this, to use Mr. Chamberlain's own expression to me, "He is such a hustler, he is sure to make it go. ' And so he did, until it became the accepted policy of the Unionist Party.

I always thought, when I was with him, that nothing was more remarkable than the patient but indomitable courage with which he bore his great affliction. That he felt it, and at times acutely, I have little doubt. How could it be otherwise? But he never showed it or allowed it to be perceptible, except by the increasing efforts which it spurred him on to make for the relief of others suffering like himself. And to what an extent he was successful in his noble work is shown by the countless letters he received from others, not only in the United Kingdom. but from other countries, from men who had been under his treatment at St. Dunstan's, and which I think some day ought to be published.

It was only in the later years of our acquaintance that, a vacancy occurring on his committee, he wrote to me, asking if I would take it. I agreed at once, telling him I was still actively engaged in political work, but that whenever he thought that I could be of use, I would do my best to attend and try to help

him.

And perhaps the most remarkable thing of all, and that which struck me most, was when he had to make a statement on the financial situation of St. Dunstan's-for instance, on the budget of the year. A Chancellor of the Exchequer in a Government has the assistance of the best experts on every branch of any Department that he has to deal with, and he can study all the figures which are put before him as much and as often as he pleases. But in his case he could only know them by word of mouth, and by what he was told, and yet the situation was always put before the committee with the utmost fluency and apparent ease, and I am unable to recall an instance in which he was mistaken.

The way in which he was successful, too—their education being finished—in providing for the after-care of his numerous patients was no less satisfactory and remarkable. For what was it that was needed in this case? First, an adequate knowledge of the capacity of each separate patient for employment, and of what description-for the variety was infinite-and how far the worker and the employment would be mutually suited to each other. And yet all this kind of work was most successfully accomplished by the gift of organisation possessed and so happily exercised, notwithstanding his loss of sight, by this truly remarkable man. It is true that he was admirably served by a first-rate staff of men and women. But the credit of their selection was due to him, and it is no exaggeration to say that they were one and all absolutely devoted to him and to his service.

And now, with these few words, and it is a privilege I value very greatly to have written them, let me conclude by saying this: The Institute of St. Dunstan's is for the care of soldiers and sailors who were blinded in the war, and there never were so many of them blinded in carrying out their duties in any war before. It is a matter, therefore, of the first importance that St. Dunstan's should be effectively continued and maintained, and that neither the teaching and example of Sir Arthur Pearson nor his education of the blind for work in the whole variety of different ways should be lost or thrown away. But for these beneficent purposes a large expenditure is unavoidable, and it is most earnestly to be hoped that the appeals which may be issued—and some have been already made—will meet with an adequate response. It would be a worthy recognition of the splendid efforts which, while suffering from the same unequalled disadvantage himself, viz., complete and hopeless blindness, were made with such remarkable success by one of the best, the most courageous, and most noble men that it was ever my privilege to know.

I am reminded of a sentence in a speech which I heard myself in the House of Commons by Mr. John Bright-who was, in my humble judgment, par excellence the greatest orator that ever lived in my time-when appealing for support in what he believed to be a charitable object. He said:

It is true that we cannot do much; it is not given to us to re-illumine the exhausted Lamp of Reason, or on the sightless eyeballs to pour the light of day; but at least we can do something to lessen the load of affliction which rests upon suffering humanity.

To one and all of those whom these few words may reach, I would dare to sav—"Go thou and do likewise."

I am, yours faithfully,

CHAPLIN. 6. Charles Street, Berkeley Square, W. January 12th.

AMERICA AND SIR ARTHUR PEARSON

THE December number of the Bulletin issued by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is in part a memorial number to the late Sir Arthur Pearson. It opens with two verses from Sir Arthur's favourite poem, "Out of the Night that covers me," followed by a tribute from the pen of a Canadian St. Dunstan's graduate, and a short account of Sir Arthur's life, with particular regard to his work for the blind. There follows a brief notice, together with a photograph, of Pearson Hall at Toronto, the residence and training centre for blinded Canadian soldiers, which was formally opened by Sir Arthur on the occasion of his visit to the town in January, 1919. reminiscence of his visit is contained in a section of a photograph of the banquet given by ex-St. Dunstaners to their Chief in the dining-room of Pearson Hall. On this occasion Sir Arthur addressed the men and, whilst he reminded them of the old St. Dunstan's days, he expressed unbounded confidence in their future. On this occasion he was presented with an all-Canadian travelling-rug, which he said he would treasure as a memento of his visit to Canada.

It may be recalled that during his tour in America Sir Arthur created a great impression by his accounts of his work on behalf of the soldiers blinded in the war. The American Press devoted a considerable amount of space to reports of his speeches and sympathetic comments were made on the subject in numberless journals. We take this opportunity of quoting a few of the many appreciatory remarks made on this occasion:

"His life is a sermon on light by one who has been submerged in darkness. . . . Only a man who carried sunshine and

light in his heart would have been fit for his task."-Baltimore Sun.

"Sir Arthur Pearson is doing the greatest good work a human being can do or know, he is helping multitudes of stricken fellow-beings up to better things."

-Ottawa Journal.

"He is a man who has made one of the most unfortunate handicaps known to human experience the means of bringing hope and salvation to hundreds of others similarly afflicted. . . . Sir Arthur Pearson stands out as a man who is wonderfully and rarely successful. Much of his success is in spite of his handicap-but some of it may be because of that same handicap."-Philadelphia Ledger.

"It is good to know that blindness no longer holds its awful finality, but any trouble met in the high-hearted way of Sir Arthur Pearson would be transformed."-

Wilmington Star.

"His methods of making the blinded soldiers of the British Empire happy, selfreliant, productive, forward-looking citizens have proved themselves so completely that whatever there remains of the oldfashioned, pitying, condescending, patronising attitude towards those without eyesight stands utterly condemned."-New York Survey.

"In his methods he departed entirely

from precedent."-Ottawa Journal.

"As I listened to Sir Arthur I lost the sense of England, the United States, France, as separate nationalities. I was impressed with the universatility of human effort. The war has been a voyage of discovery. Sir Arthur has been one of The United States the ablest pilots. recognises Sir Arthur as the great leader of those who have lost their sight. We are proud of his leadership, and glad to follow."--Mr. Baker, Secretary of State for War.

PEARSON'S FRESH AIR FUND

NE impression of a child can mould his whole existence. A memory can be the window through which he can see the outlet to the ugliness which surrounds him." We take these words from the latest report, now before us, of Pearson's Fresh Air Fund, which further

quotes the tender saving of the Bishop of Truro: "I believe in bringing Heaven into the world for the Children.

It is now thirty years ago that the late Sir Arthur Pearson founded this great undertaking, born from his own love of children, and in "the years between" no fewer than 4,350,660 poor children have experienced that glimpse of Heaven which the Bishop would fain bring into the life of each little human being. It is interesting to recall that during the first summer of its existence 20,000 poor children experienced the joys of a few hours' play and sunshine in Epping Forest. By the third year the movement had grown to the extent of including five large towns in its operations, namely, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Dublin; each year saw the addition of other large towns, until the number grew to forty-two. In 1908 fortnightly holidays were introduced, and the work has progressed so greatly that during last summer no fewer than 165,743 little ones were given a day's outing, whilst 6,127 children experienced the joys of a fortnight's holiday.

It will be recalled that on the occasion of his 27th birthday the Prince of Wales, together with Princess Mary, joined a happy party of holiday-makers at Epping Forest. On taking leave of the children His Royal Highness authorised Sir Arthur Pearson to publish the following

message:

I shall be glad if you will cause it to be known that should anyone wish to make me a birthday present, they cannot give me one that I should appreciate more highly than a contribution to the Fresh Air Fund."

Often the promoters of the Fund receive letters from young mothers and fathers recalling the joyous holidays provided by the Fund, the memories of which have enabled them to bestow a larger measure of care on their own little

Perhaps never before in our country's history has there existed a more urgent need to preserve and strengthen its young lives. After the most devastating of all wars, the work of bringing into order the strange new world which has arisen lies with the young generation "knocking at the door." It is this young generation which needs all the thought and care which we can possibly bestow upon it.

NEWSPAPER WORK FOR THE BLIND

A LLUDING to the article on Newspaper Work for the Blind, recently published in the October number of *The Beacon*, Mr. S. C. Swift, Chief Libraria of the Canadian National Institute for

the Blind, writes as follows:-

"I should like to add to the discussion of the blind in newspaper work the fact that in the town of Arthur, in the Province of Ontario, Mr. Rixon Rafter, a graduate of Queen's University in the class of '07, has owned and managed the local newspaper ever since his graduation. Other blind men in Canada and the United States have for years made considerable additions to their incomes by acting as correspondents to various newspapers. Two of my personal friends are regular contributors to important Agricultural Journals, while one of them is also a wellknown writer on educational topics.' ಯೊ

SCOTLAND AND ST. DUNSTAN'S

CAPTAIN IAN FRASER, chairman of St. Dunstan's, paid a visit to the Scottish capital last month, when some thirty Scottish ex-St. Dunstaners, gathered together from various towns in the east of Scotland, were invited to tea and music at the Dunedin Rooms. In the course of an address to the men Captain Fraser alluded to St. Dunstan's as a remarkable vindication of the Briton's pride in private enterprise, and assured them that the death of Sir Arthur Pearson would in no way affect the determination of St. Dunstan's to look after their interests.

Mr. Frederick Martin, a journalist member of the Aberdeenshire Education Authority, moved a resolution of welcome to Captain Fraser on the occasion of his first visit to Scotland in his new capacity of chairman of St. Dunstan's, and alluded to St. Dunstan's an imperial institution. He also paid a tribute to Mrs. Fraser's work for blinded soldiers. Sergeant Watt, of Montrose, seconded the resolution, which was carried with enthu-

siasm.

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MAJOR-GENERAL SIR ROBERT JONES, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., has consented to become the President of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs.

BLIND WAR NURSES AS MASSEUSES

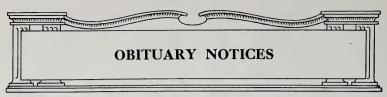
THE number of blind war nurses for the Blind now amounts to three. The first nurse trained by the Institute (also a war nurse), was actually in harness when blindness overtook her. She is now at work as a masseuse in one of the Ministry of Pension's hospitals. The two nurses who have recently qualified as masseuses became blind as the result of strain consequent upon their war activities. One of them intends to start in private practice in London, while the other, who prefers hospital life, is anxious to secure a hospital appointment. The blind nurses trained under the auspices of the National Institute begin their two years' training by learning to read and write Braille, and obtain their practical experience while in training at the Westminster Hospital. Only one other case of blindness among war nurses as the result of service is known to the National Institute, which assists those it trains in every possible way.

RECITALS BY BLIND ORGANISTS

I N connection with the Children's Carnival and Christmas Fair, held at the Albert Hall from December 26th to January 4th, the following blind organists contributed recitals: H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., Sinclair Logan, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., the Rev. H. E. C. Lewis, M.A., F.R.C.O., H. G. Newell, F.R.C.O., L. G. Marsh, Mus.Bac, F.R.C.O., W. Wolstenholme, Mus.Bac, F.R.C.O., T. G. Osborn, F.R.C.O., Irby Chapman, F.R.C.O., H. V. Spanner, Mus.Bac, F.R.C.O.

NEW INVENTION BY A BLIND TUNER

THE Patent Office has accepted the complete specification for Mr. S. V. Tucker's piano action (a notice of which appeared in the August number of *The Beacon.*) Mr. Tucker, who is now a partner of the "Improved Piano Company," Invicta Works, Windus Road, Stamford Hill, N.16, will be pleased to conduct correspondence in Braille.





It is with feelings of sincere regret that we have to record the death of Mr. H. W. P. Pine, who was for many years secretary and superintendent of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, and a devoted and strenuous worker on behalf of the blind community. It was in the year 1880 that Mr. Pine was appointed to the above-mentioned position

at the Midland Institution, which at that time was principally devoted to the training of the young blind. A certain amount of manufacturing work was also accomplished at the institution, and the annual trade returns amounted to a few hundred pounds. It is interesting to note that on Mr. Pine's retirement in 1917 the work had grown to such an extent that these returns had increased to twice as many thousands. In 1894, by the requirements of the Blind Education Act of that year, the children's department was relinquished and the institution converted into a technical training and industrial establish-The work entailed by this change devolved upon Mr. Pine, and was carried out with such efficiency that the establishment now holds a high position amongst technical training institutions for the blind. Nor were Mr. Pine's energies confined solely to the institution. He was very closely associated with every movement on foot for the amelioration of the lot of the sightless; he served on numerous committees throughout the country, and was one of the Executive Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind, of which College he was a Fellow. He took a very active part in the National and International Conferences on the Blind, sometimes acting as secretary.

Mr. Pine's knowledge of all matters pertaining to the blind world was as accurate as it was profound, and included a comprehensive knowledge of conditions

prevailing amongst the blind of many European countries. In 1906, together with the late Mr A. B. Norwood, Superintendent of the York Institution for the Blind, he paid a visit to some of the principal Continental institutions for the blind, and the outcome was a profoundly interesting paper concerning the methods adopted with regard to the education, training and employment of the blind in various countries, together with an account of some of the libraries for the blind in Germany, Austria, and Sweden. Pine contributed papers at conferences, and in magazines and papers published in the interests of the blind are to be found articles from his pen of a most interesting and informative nature on matters pertaining to the care of the sightless. S

WITH deep regret we have to record VV the death, in her eighty-second year, of the Hon. Eleanor Constable Maxwell, Sister of Charity and Sister Superior of the Catholic Blind Asylum. Brunswick Road, Liverpool. Third daughter of Lord Herries, Miss Maxwell came from Drogheda to London in her early youth, and became a Sister of Charity at York Place. Nine years of her life were devoted to the Boys' Orphanage in Beacon Lane, Liverpool, and to the poor of St. Francis Xavier's parish. It was at the request of the Rev. George Power, afterwards Archbishop of Bombay, that "Sister Maxwell" took charge of the Blind Asylum, Brunswick Road, which had until then been under lay government. In 1875 the first children were admitted to the Asylum; their numbers increased rapidly until one hundred little ones and one hundred adults were gathered beneath its roof. The large increase in numbers necessitated the building of the school in Yew Tree Lane, and it was largely owing to Sister Maxwell's untiring efforts that the necessary donations were secured.

In January, 1912, Sister Maxwell celebrated her golden jubilee as a Sister of Charity, and until the end of her life she continued to work unceasingly in the cause which lay so near her heart.

BY the death of Miss Caroline Bush, in the ninety-fourth year of her age, the blind have lost a generous benefactor. She was the founder of the Clifton Home for Blind Women, opened in 1874 at No. 71, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol, the house being lent by the founder of the Home. About 1897 the Home was removed to No. 9, Aberdeen Road, Clifton, and eight years later to No. 9, Gordon Road, its present premises, towards the purchase of which Miss Bush contributed generously.

In June, 1920, the Home was taken over by the National Institute for the Blind, which assumed entire control and management. The late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., then President of the National Institute, and Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., Chairman of the Execu-tive Council of the National Institute, became trustees of the securities. Many improvements have been carried out by the Institute, and the Home is continuing its excellent service in the cause of the blind by affording all domestic comforts and peacefulness to necessitous blind women-the age limit is now fortyresident in the West of England, and thus carries out to the full the wishes of its founder. do

WE deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. Ernest Littlewood, for many years a member of the staff of the National Institute for the Blind, in Great Portland Street. Mr. Littlewood met his death by stumbling and falling in front of an incoming train at King's Cross Station on the evening of December 20th. The possessor of a fine baritone voice which was trained at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, Mr. Littlewood was for some years a member of Lady Pearson's Concert Party. His repertoire included solos from the "Messiah" and "Elijah," and he was heard to great advantage in sacred solos at religious services, when he also frequently read the lessons. Mr. Littlewood also worked as a proof reader at the Institute, where he is sorely missed by blind and sighted alike.

THE Fifty-fourth Annual Report of the Swansea Blind Institute shows that during the year under review the ambers of the blind persons in the institute and workshops were: 44 pupils at school, 32 workers at Swansea, and 24 at Pontypridd. During the year 8,156 baskets, 2,631 mats, and 1,271 knitted articles were made, 566 chairs were re-seated, and 76,810 bundles of firewood sold.

The total sales for the year amounted to £7,292 18s. 4d.., and the wages and augmentation paid to blind workers £5,989 15s. Trade union rates were paid to the workers, in addition to which adult workers received blindness compensation grants of 15s. per week, the total amount paid in augmentation of the trade union rates being £3,710 15s. 6d.

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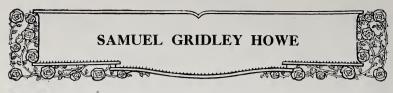
A T the opening of a Sale of Work held recently at the Royal Blind Asylum Workshops in Bristol, the chairman stated that that year arrangements had been made by them for the care of ninety-five blind persons. Goods sold during the last completed year realised the sum of £11,087, and the wages paid to blind workers amounted to £2,580, augmented by the sum of £3,032.

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ON and after April 1st next the "Eyes to the Blind" Society will be taken over by the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, 21, Crawford Street, W.1. The "Eyes to the Blind" Society branch will remain at 17, Callow Street, S.W.3, until further notice. Miss Douglas Hamilton has become a Vice-President of the Barclay Workshop, and Mr. Henry Stainsby and Mrs. Griffin, of the "Eyes to the Blind" Society, have joined the Workshops' Committee.

THIRTY-SIX blind women are now resident at the Church Army Hostel, 36, St. George's Square, N.W. There are approximately fifteen vacancies, and Miss Olive Clarke, Church Army Hostel, 57, Bryanston Street, W.I, will be glad to receive applications.

AMOS CLARKE, blind organist of a Leicestershire church, has completed fifty years as organist and choirmaster.



N the March number of "The Christian Register" there appeared a striking article on "Samuel Gridley Howe," written by Mr. Edward E. Allen, the director of the Perkins Institution, at Watertown, Massachusetts. Dr. Howe's name is one which is known and venerated in the blind world, and whenever the name of

Laura Bridgman is mentioned, it is invariably coupled with that of her friend and teacher. "To-day," says Mr. Allen, "throngs of children attend the Samuel Gridley Howe public school in South Boston, where he lived; and anyone who looks on the Boylston Street walls of the Boston Public Library may see there the name of Howe carved with those of Pestalozzi, Froebel, Mann, and Harvard."

Dr. Howe was born at Boston in the year 1801. Having passed through his university course, he decided to follow a medical career. He never practised in the ordinary way, however, for his sympathies were aroused first by one and then another enthusiast. "He has," says Mr. Allen, "been likened to a chevalier of the Middle Ages-handsome, fierce when roused, otherwise gentle and kind. His most intimate friends called him 'Chev.' This title he earned over and over again: first, in going, like Byron, to fight for the Greeks in their war of revolution against the Turks; then, again, nearly losing his life on behalf of the down-trodden Poles. Next we read of his coming home to make a whirlwind appeal for money and clothing for the impoverished Greeks, and later for the Cretans; in both cases obtaining it readily and going to oversee its distribution in person-not just giving it away, but wisely using much of it in payments for labour upon public works, such as rebuilding the devastated villages. Here we see,

coupled with his native humanitarianism, the origin of his common-sense moulding of the public charities of Massachusetts, touching which Chapman, a keen student of affairs, writes: 'His work in charity will never be superseded. Succeeding penologists will recur to it to save them from the science of their times.'

"Indeed. Dr. Howe was always original and practical. When asked in 1831 to take charge of the proposed first school for the blind in Boston, he accepted the call of the helpless as a true knight would, went abroad to study the few schools there, and upon returning brought along not only a knowledge of the best that had been done in this field, but also two brilliant young instructors, one of them himself blind, the latter to demonstrate in his own person and at once what training can achieve. He had observed keenly the foreign schools, disapproving of much; and he laid down for his pioneer American enterprise wise fundamental principles from which there has been no departure to this day. He laid down at the outset the principle that the young blind can become, and therefore should be trained to be, economically and socially competent.

"Dr. Howe also resolved to found his school upon embossed books. But the quarter-century existence of the British schools having supplied only a few different books—mostly huge affairs, enormously expensive, and embossed in a rather poor type—he immediately set himself to create on a principle of his own, first, a better-that is, more generally tangible -alphabet, and then proceeded to turn out volume after volume until he soon had more and better and cheaper books than existed anywhere else; in fact, he came to fill orders for them from Europe. His books took the gold medal over all others at the Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, held in London in 1851. And the Boston line type continued to lead until, over a half-century

later, it was superseded by Braille, a system which the blind can write as well as read. He states somewhere that seeing blind children reading with their fingers did more to promote the growth and prosperity of his own and similar schools in this country than any other one thing. This was the practical vision sometimes called prophecy. He well understood that seeing is believing,' and that only conviction could open purses for this new and untried cause. Promptly following such demonstrations of reading by touch, one after another of the States themselves established schools of their own. The education of the blind of the United States to-day embraces 5,386 pupils, 728 teachers, 140,621 embossed books, and is represented in a capital of 11,586,064 dollars. Of all this Dr. Howe is the acknowledged pioneer.

"While thinking out new projects and processes, Dr. Howe showed his creative genius by evolving a plan for teaching a child who is both deaf and blind; for one so shut in was then considered unteachable, since its mind could not be reached, and legally was held to be non compos mentis. His finding and teaching of Laura Bridgman was the result. Every doubter should read the story of this wonderful achievement and so come to believe that everything is possible to him who both wills and labours perseveringly in the right direction. The education of Laura Bridgman is the emancipation of a soul. It made her liberator famous, and the Perkins Institution the Mecca of many notable men and women. One of these was Charles Dickens, who describes the visit in his "American Notes," and another was Miss Julia Ward, who as a result of the acquaintance then formed became Julia Ward Howe.

"While Dr. Howe's chief work was the education of the blind, in which field he was the recognised leader as long as he lived, he also helped release the deaf and dumb from their isolation by furthering the teaching of speech and lip-reading; and he fathered the whole project in this country of training the feeble-minded, then called idiots. For proposing to do this he was at first dubbed one of them; but, having been successful in a few cases, he persevered, founded the first school for the feeble-minded, and located it near the

Perkins Institution, both of which places he superintended as long as he lived.

"Dr. Howe did not confine his noblesse oblige to the education of the handicapped. He was interested in all education; and served on Boston's School Committee when Horace Mann was Secretary of Education. Such service by him meant reforms in the public schools. Mann said of one of them, the introduction of written examinations in the face of violent opposition: 'It could only have been done by an angel—or Sam Howe.' It is said that Horace Mann, during his whole career as a reformer of public schools in New England, had no friend more intimate than Dr. Howe, nor one whose support was more indispensable to him.

"The Perkins Institution had a city office in Bromfield Street. This, Frank P. Stearns, in his paper on 'Chevalier Howe,' calls 'historic ground,' declaring that 'between 1850 and 1870 some of the most important national councils were held there in Dr. Howe's private office. It was the first place that Sumner went to in the morning, and the last place that Governor Andrew stopped at before returning to his home at night. There Dr. Howe and George L. Stearns consulted with John Brown concerning measures for the defence of Kansas.' He was too old to go to the Civil War, but he could throw his great energies into helping the Sanitary Commission, and he did so. Between 1866 and 1874 he was chairman of the Massachusetts Board of State Charities, and wrote its annual reports. They are and will remain classic textbooks on the subject of public charity. His general principles may be called maxims. One of these is 'that it is better to separate and diffuse the dependent classes than to congregate them. not only better for each dependant but for the community. It was a novel idea to the people, who found themselves called upon to take up the work of public charity instead of leaving it to official persons. This they have since done to a great extent. For example, the so-called placing-out' system has resulted, whereby the State places its 'minor wards,' not in asylums, but in families, there to be faithfully followed up, protected and educated until able to take care of themselves. This system has become universal throughout the United States: and such organisations as the Child Welfare Department of the American Commission to Serbia are now applying it abroad. It is these reports of Dr. Howe's, filled as they are with the suggestions of common sense and the duty of the strong to the weak, which led to the statement: 'His work in charity will never be super-

seded.

"A report of all the services of this Servant of Humanity would expand this sketch unduly. Sanborn, in the index of his Life, condenses these on two pages, among which one may read, in addition to those already enumerated, the following: 'debates prison discipline; organises a movement for the fugitive slaves; chairman of the Vigilance Committee; helps elect Charles Sumner senator; edits a Boston daily; a member of the Bird Club; aids Kansas; meets John Brown; his part in the Civil War; work among the freedmen; advocates separation of the poor and the defective; visits the insane at Gheel; opens work-schools at Athens; sums up work of Cretan charities.

"'Dr. Howe was never the hero of his own tale,' says Dr. F. H. Hedge. 'Excepting him only, I have never known a philanthropist—I mean an active reforming philanthropist—who was also a fair-minded, tolerant man.' A good many people develop original ideas, but, as has been intimated, those of this 'original first cause,' as Sanborn calls him, were also practical. He had the rare gift of knowing whether or not any plan of his would work. When he had carried one of them well along and perceived success ahead he handed it over to another to finish and turned his mind to fresh fields. He selected his assistants with acumen,

he could drive so many teams abreast and have them all reach their goal.

"The education of Laura Bridgman remains doubtless Dr. Howe's unique achievement. It still adds lustre to a city that proudly boasts a galaxy of cele-

infusing into them his own confidence and

consecration. It was because of this that

brated sons.

"Says one of his biographers: 'There grew up in Boston and its neighbourhood in Dr. Howe's early and middle life a group of remarkable men. . . . Such were Channing, Emerson, Webster, Ev-erett, Allston, the Danas, Alcott, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Lowell, Margaret Fuller, Garrison, Theodore Parker. Horace Mann, Sumner, Agassiz, Choate, Andrew, Wendell Phillips, James Freeman Clarke. . . . Among all these, and others whom I have not named, Dr. Howe stood forth, as individual and almost as conspicuous as any. He was neither saint, nor poet, nor orator, nor matchless prose writer: neither great lawyer, nor man of unquestioned eminence in science, nor artist, nor seer, nor persistent champion of a single great cause; but his own work, such as it was, drew the attention of all."

THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

WE learn from the January issue of the Matilda Ziegler Magazine that during the course of last summer there was inaugurated a society known as "The American Foundation for the Blind." The aim of this organisation is to render every possible assistance to the blind, for which purpose it proposes to collect, systematise, and disseminate all available data relating to work for the blind. This will include particulars concerning workshops, industrial homes, associations, and commissions, together with their respective objects and the results obtained; as well as data relating to private and state educational institutions and lines of employment and vocations pursued by individual blind and partially blind persons. Further, its intention is to collect data relating to legislation affecting the blind and the partially blind, as well as the blind-deaf. It proposes to issue an inkprint and an embossed magazine devoted to work for the blind and partially blind, or to avail itself of the services of existing periodicals on this subject.

All information concerning the abovementioned subjects is being collected by a Bureau, known as the Bureau of Informa-tion and Publicity. There is, further, a Bureau of Research, which proposes to examine and experiment on the best methods of instruction and apparatus for the use of the blind and partially blind, and methods of embossing and printing, and also to discover and open up new lines of employment to the blind and

the partially blind.

A Bureau of Education is undertaking the task of "improving every facility for preparing the blind and the partially blind for the greatest possible participation in the activities and enjoyments of life," which object it hopes to secure by providing courses of instruction for teachers in various departments of work for the blind and the partially blind. Further, it hopes to co-operate with schools in the effort to make their curricula a more natural and logical preparation for the vocations open to By providing scholarships the blind. to a limited number of capable students, it will endeavour to encourage their attendance in schools of every description.

Other tenets of this organisation relate to the provision of raw material for workers, efforts to secure better methods of census-taking as regards the blind and the partially blind, and to the improvement of the status of blind persons in

general.

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BLIND

THE following are the names of the members of the newly-constituted Advisory Committee to the London County Council appointed to advise under the Blind Persons Act, 1920:-MEMBERS.

(1) Chairman, Captain O. E. Warburg, O.B.E., M.A., 2, Craven Hill, W.2; Deputy Chairman, Mr. P. M. Evans,

M.A., LL.D.

(2) Ex-officio Members: The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Welfare of the Blind (Special) Committee of the London County Council (the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee has been appointed Chairman of the Central Council).

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Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Norwood: Mr. Guy M. Campbell, F.C.T.B., F.R.G.S., Royal College for the Blind Upper Norwood S.E.19; Deputy, Mrs. Campbell.

Royal School for the Indigent Blind, Leatherhead: the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., Royal School for the Blind, Highlands Road, Leatherhead.

West London Workshops for the Blind: Sir R. Ellis Cunliffe, 34, The Grove,

Boltons, S.W.

Workshop for the Blind of Kent: Miss Edith Mary Bambrigge, 11, St. George's Court, Gloucester Road, S.W.7; Deputy, Mr. John Ashby, 15, Vanbrugh Hill, Blackheath, S.E.3.

THE MISSION TO THE BLIND IN HEATHEN LANDS

In the East the worker on behalf of the blind community is confronted by continual opposition, due to ancient custom and superstition, and it is, therefore, with a certain amount of wonder and no little admiration that we read of the progress which has been effected among the blind in heathen lands. In the vast country of China there is a blind population of 1,000,000; Japan counts 98,100 blind amongst its inhabitants, Korea 23,000, India 600,000, and Egypt 251,000.

In the East the idea prevails that blindness is caused by demons, or by the anger of the gods as a punishment for sin. The blind are, therefore, believed to be accursed, and in many districts they are both shunned and feared. In the East blind children are regarded as a disgrace to their parents, and every year thousands die of neglect, ill-treatment, or starvation. The report to hand of the Mission to the Blind in Heathen Lands contains items of information of which some are too harrowing to bear repetition. When the work among

the blind was started it was only with the greatest difficulty that teachers could be found for the first scholars. Owing to the belief that their blindness is an affliction which has been laid upon them as a punishment for wickedness, few people were kind to the blind for fear of incurring the anger of the gods. When, howzer, it was seen that the blind scholars

oved themselves capable of holding their own with sighted weavers, basket and furniture makers, bamboo workers, chair caners, and so forth, they began to win the respect of those around them. Some have become teachers of music and languages, musicians in mission churches, and interpreters to missionacies. Others are giving massage treatment in hospitals. In the past the education of the blind was a very difficult problem, but the Braille system has opened out a new world of possibilities.

It is interesting to learn that in the East blind people are now being trained as reporters, and that in China many are employed in teaching the new phonetic language to classes of sighted people. The mere fact that those who once despised them are now willing to listen and become converts to their teaching shows how far-reaching the practical Christianity of the schools for the blind may be. These schools were founded by missionaries of various denominations. They are as yet few in number. The majority are carried on entirely with the assistance of voluntary contributions and are, therefore, unable to admit a large number of pupils. Assistance in the form of funds, Braille literature, etc., is urgently needed.

These schools are the means of rescuing many human beings from despair and degradation, and of opening out to them a new world full of usefulness and hope.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND.—The next EXAMINATION for the Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19, will be held on the 4th and 6th MARCH. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the Examination, must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years, and be intending to remain resident. Application should be made to the PRINCIPAL on or before Saturday, the 11th February, and the Forms, properly filled in and completed, returned to the College before the 18th February, or the Candidate's name will not be placed on the list.

THE BLIND AND EDUCATION

Ammunum &

the November issue of The Beacon there appeared an article written by Mr. G. F. Mowatt concerning the College for Blind Girls at Chorley Wood. A statement in this article attracted the attention of one of our Canadian friends, Mr. S. C. Swift, Chief Librarian the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. His

comment thereon raises an interesting point of discussion, and we believe that readers will be interested to read a portion of his letter, which we take the liberty

quoting:-

In the article dealing with the College for Girls at Chorley Wood, I find the following sentence: 'I am sure in less than ten minutes she would convince the most hardened disbeliever that for those who can afford to give their child a good education a college where the girl can be with her fellow-students, in normal, happy surroundings, is infinitely better than a private tutor, or a college for the sighted, where the blind are bound to feel apart and abnormal.' As a blind man, having had experience of two splendid schools for the blind, of a high school for the sighted, and of two Universities, I wish to take an emphatic objection to Mr. Mowatt's position as indicated particularly in the closing words of the sentence quoted: 'better than . . . a college for the sighted, where the blind are bound to feel apart and abnormal.' A position thus taken would seem to indicate that the writer was not fully aware of the latest developments in the theory and practice of education of the blind. Most educators of the sightless, in America at least, agree that where proper home environment obtains, the best interests of blind pupils are served by having them taught side by side with their sighted brothers and sisters. This gives them as nearly as possible the sighted view-point which is so essential to success in after life. I

think it can scarcely be doubted that many failures on the part of blind people are due to their inability to grasp the view-point of their sighted competitors and of the sighted market they are attempting to serve. Of course, this does not apply in the cases of men and women who have lost their sight in adult life, but it does apply with force to those who have no visual memories, and whose educative period has been passed wholly

in schools for the blind.

My own experience has been that far from feeling 'apart and abnormal' when following courses in schools for the sighted, I felt completely at one with my surroundings. When at college and high school there was not a snow-shoe party, a dance, a reception, a theatre party. a skating party-in fact there was not an activity originated by the student body in which I was not asked to participate or in which I felt the slightest suggestion of loneliness or that I was considered as something apart from the regular normal conditions. This has been the universal experience of all blind people educated in schools for the sighted with whom I am acquainted.

"Mr. Mowatt's article dealt particularly, of course, with the education of blind girls, so that my remarks might be considered as not applying directly to the point at issue. I imagine, however, that the same experience would be that of blind girls in schools for the sighted, and in at least two cases known to me, blind girl students in ordinary Universities have been received into the activities of their respective Alma Maters without any distinction being made on account of blindness. In fact, I would say further that blind students are, as a rule, very popular with their sighted companions, who make every effort to minimise the handicap of blindness. Mr. Mowatt's position is, therefore, I think, untenable, not merely from the theoretical standpoint, but from t'at of actual experience,'

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New Publications (N. I. B.)—continued.	son Rivington and A. Clifford Fon-
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OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the January Numbers

- Progress.—The Death of a Great Philanthropist—Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E.: His Life and Work— The Funeral—"In Memoriam": C. A. P. (Poem) —The Memorial Service at St. James', Paddington— Appreciations—A Sonnet—Additional Services— Always at Work for the Blind—St. Dunstan's—"In Memory of Sir Arthur Pearson"—Lady Pearson's Appeal—Matters of the Moment—Advertisements.
- The Literary Journal.—Sir Arthur Pearson, by the Editor—R. L. S. and Some Savages on an Island—Picturesque Biographies—Darwnism—A Snake Hunn—Prohibition—National Library for the Blind—A Spy Play—Wat Tyler Dramatised—Women Witnesses—Scotland Yard.
- School Magazine.—Death of Sir Arthur Pearson—Chemical Attraction ("My Magazine")—The Evolution of the Basuros ("My Magazine")—The Evolution of the Elephant's Truuk ("John o' London's Weekly")—Queries—Afforestation ("Chambers' Journal")—The Origin of Place Names ("Children's Encyclopedia")—The Jelly-Fish—Biography in Briet: Sir Thomas Chantrey—In an African Desert, by Sir Richard Burton—For the Cause (Poem), by Harold Begbie—The Sanctity of a Good Book, from "Arcopagnica," by John Milton—Higher Education for the Blund—The Taj Mahal.
- Comrades (Contents)—Death of Sir Arthur Pearson, President of the National Institute for the Blind—The Story of the "Aeneid" (Children's Encyclopædia)—The Dreadful Griffin, by Michael Fairless)—The Bold Baron (from the Rambler Nature Book)—Why? by E. Gordon Browne (Grade I)—The Warning (My Magazine)—Puzzles—Answers to last month's Puzzles—Yesterday in Oxford Street, by Rose Fyleman—The Elephant, by W. de la Mare.
- Musical Magazine.—Reminiscences of the late W. T.
 Best (continued)—Saint Saëns, by Edwin Evans—
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 Arthur Pearson—Obituary: Mr. E. E. W. Littlewood
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 Piano, "Moods of a Mind" (Book I), by H. V.
 Spanner; Song, "Easter Hymn," by Frank Bridge.
- Hampstead Magazine.—The Silver Knight, by Lloyd Williams—Aladdin's New Lamp—Romance of the Privy Council—World's Weirdest Place—Merry Musical Memories—Fortunes from the Gutter—Best Stories.
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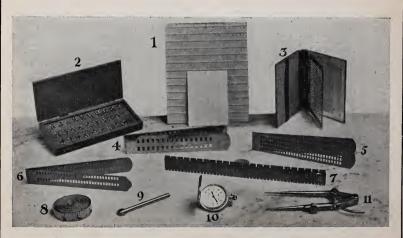
- Massage Journal, being the official organ of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs.—
 Massage (From the Nurse)—Massage Library—News in the Massage World—Special Memorial Appeal to the Medical Profession—The Objective Study of Neurosis, by F. L. Golla, M. B. Oxon., F. R. C. P. Lond.
- Santa Lucia.—In Memory of Sir Arthur Pearson— C. A. P.: The Story of a Man who did Things—The Great Impersonation, chapters 5 6, by E. Phillips Oppenheim (to be continued)—A Cobra Farm— Growing Your Tea—The Magnet in Industry— Woman Fights a Bear—"Gone West"—A Happy New Year.
- Channels of Blessing.—Editorial Notes and Notices— Life's Larger Experiences—Poor Joseph—The Word Opened Day hy Day—Members One of Another—A Talk ahout Christmas—He Knoweth the Way—Mission Work in a Russian Village "Light in Darkness" League Report—Feng Yu Hstang—Gleanings—With Christ in the School of Prayer.
- Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-nine of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy [4d. post free], 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, [2s. 6d. per year.
- The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Luck Penny (continued)—Bill's Old Pal—The Ministry of Love—The Itinerary—The Candid Friend—New Publications.
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- HOME OF REST FOR THE BLIND, Caswell Hill, Mumbles, Glamorgan.—Applications for admission to the above Home will be received by the Hon. Secretary, JOSEPH HALL, Grosvenor House, Swansea.
- A COLLEGE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION
 OF BLIND GIRLS has recently been opened under
 the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind
 at The Cedars, Chorley Wood, Herts, where blind
 and partially blind pupils receive a first-class specialised
 education. There are vacancies at the College, and
 full particulars as to the curriculum, fees, etc., can
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 Monk, M A., at the above address.

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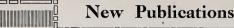


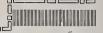
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MUSIC NOTES

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M. R. NORMAN NOTLEY, Mr. Ernest Whitfield, and Mr. Herbert Fryer provided a very attractive programme for the Monthly Concert on February 13th, and the audience, which was a large one, gave unmistakable evidence of its appreciation. The most important number was Brahms' Violin Sonata in D Minor, Op. 108.

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AT the Thanet Arts and Crafts Exhibition, held from January 30th to February 4th, the band numbers were varied by songs and piano pieces, and Mr. H. G. Oke, A.R.A.M., organist of All Saints', Margate, a well-known blind composer, contributed items from the National Institute of the Blind edition of the works of British blind composers.

MR. SYDNEY ANSTEY, organist of the Parish Church, Basingstoke, has just been invited to become the conductor of the Basingstoke Choral Society, which numbers eighty members; he is putting in hand immediately such works as Stanford's "Songs of the Fleet," "All Creatures now are Merry" (old madrigal), and Walford Davies' "The Shepherd" in preparation for the Winchester Competitive Festival, which is to take place on June 1st.

MR. ERNEST WHITFIELD, the well-known blind violinist, is shortly going to Vienna and Berlin. In both towns he will play such works as Brahms' Concerto, Symphony Espagnol, Lalo, and Sonatas by the following living English composers: Elgar, Ireland, Arnold Bax and Goossens.



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MARCH. 1922.

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THE ECONOMICS OF INDUSTRY.—IV

"I say advisedly Society in its corporate capacity, not intending to exclude or condemn aid given to the inferior by the superior in their individual capacities. Though when given so indiscriminately as to enable the inferior to multiply, such aid entails mischief; vet in the absence of aid given by society, individual aid, more generally demanded than now, and associated with a greater sense of responsibility would, on the average, be given with the effect of fostering the unfortunate worthy rather than the innately unworthy: there being always, too, the concomitant social benefit arising from culture of the sympathies. But all this may

be admitted while asserting that the radical distinction between family-ethics and State-ethics must be maintained; and that while generosity must be the essential principle of the one, justice must be the essential principle of the other; a rigorous maintenance of those normal relations among citizens under which each gets in return for his labour, skilled or unskilled, bodily or mental, as much as is proved to be its value by the demand for it; such return, therefore, as will enable him to thrive and rear offspring in proportion to the superiorities which make him valuable to himself and others."

(Herbert Spencer.) "The Man v. the State."

HOUGH we have quoted rather extensively from a work written in the mid-Victorian era, it must not be inferred that the fundamental issues raised therein have our unqualified assent or Spencer's propheapproval. cies have been so thoroughly exploded and falsified that he has been rendered no longer a safe philosophical guide either

to the student of sociology or polemics. He is thoughtful and suggestive, but nearly always wrong in his basic conclusions. As we all know, Spencer was an individualist of the first water, but without the reasoning power of a Comte or a Frederick Harrison, and his teaching is now a spent force. Nevertheless, the extract places in bold relief some of the pertinent questions that have perplexed the eugenist and psychologist, as well as the more general sociologist for a very long period.

We have made the quotation in order to draw attention to a view-point that has seldom been presented in its true perspective when reviewing problems associated with the care of the blind. We have grown so accustomed to think that the subjects of the little realm in which "we live and move and have our being" can claim quite unreservedly and at will, rights and privileges which are only conceded to the more adequately equipped members of the human family, who continue to contribute to the upkeep of the community those vital services which enable it to function correctly.

Service for service is the expressed economic law, and where that same service cannot be wholly rendered, there is a revealed weakness which must be made up if the normality of the situation is to be properly maintained.

This premise may not be new, but when its full significance dawned upon the writer, the knowledge, for a time, at least, did not bring any degree of happiness. Indeed, how could it? For all one's training had been directed into those channels which seem to claim this or that concession as an inalienable right, forgetful of the fundamental and inexorable law to which the world in general subscribes and does at least wholly conform through the media of production, distribution and exchange.

For want of a better term we would describe this process as the reciprocal transfer of the world's productivity in order to meet the world's rational needs. The reader must keep his mind free from sentiment; its proper place is not here at the moment, for we are considering the view that only in return for equality of service can you scientifically secure such an adjustment as will result in something approximating to equality of treatment.

We know all about those finely-conceived and tritely-expressed platitudes such as "from each according to his ability; to each according to his needs," but they represent neither practical commonsense nor sound economic law. We would not envy the task of those who had to determine the equipoise, but in any case, viewed seriously, the first part of the sentence is a negation of the rest.

The plain truth simply is that we must be more prepared to recognise our intrinsic worth as foreshadowed by our limitations, and more disposed to plead for concessions rather than to argue for rights that are non-existent in the domain of real economics. In the region of industry we necessarily stand at a much lower level in the productive sense than is conceived by the sightless workman, and if the truth must be told, it is that our labour is nothing more nor less than a tolerated quantity. It certainly represents no reserve of economic strength, and this is precisely why, in a trade dispute, we can be said to possess no real economic power, because the wheels of industry are unaffected by the cessation or withdrawal of our labour. In no industry in which we engage can it be said that capital reproduces itself at such a ratio as to attract and retain the normal features of ordinary business enterprise, and this in itself constitutes the most conclusive evidence of an economic stagnation or paralysis.

It affords one no degree of pleasure to state these views thus in cold print. There is no intention nor desire to depreciate the humanitarian motives that inspire those who are confronted with an onerous and difficult task. We are not afraid that this article will be misinterpreted or misunderstood by such; but the worker, unless he is willing to look at these problems in their true perspective, may gather a wrong impression, and yet, strangely enough, it is in his interests alone that

one is prompted to write.

There is no royal road by which a means of escape can be provided from what is a perfectly natural set of conditions: if our infirmities carried with them no handicap or limitations, there could be no problem, and our place would be that of the ordinary economic unit in society. Such is not the case, however, and it is hardly conceivable that a complete solution of our difficulties will ever be designed. We may alter, re-adapt, modify—all with a view to increasing our economic utility, but never by manual dexterity alone will it be possible to establish equality of labour-power and value, as between the blind and sighted workman.

There are those who argue quite rightly that in the coming years we must devote ourselves more closely to the preparation of the blind for other than industrial avocations, where they can substitute mental for manual labour, and where a much greater degree of equality in economic status can be established. This is the one great hope of the future that lies before us, though at the moment dark clouds are rapidly flitting across the horizon.

The respective positions of the blind and sighted workman being brought into relief, we are attracted to the thorny problem of the relative remuneration which the one should bear towards the other. Here is indicated yet another milestone along the somewhat tedious and difficult road we needs must travel in quest of truth. There may be no dreams of Utopian bliss to lure us onward, but the economist is haunted by no such fantastic illusions. He may not always be the most charming of companions one could wish to choose, but in the end he is the best of friends because he is both candid and truthful.

VISUAL CONCEPTION OF THE BLIND

A Free Translation from the French



N the Blindenbote of last October and November there appeared an article entitled "La Conception Visuelle chez les Aveugles" (literally "The Visual Conception of the Blind"). The writer, Mr. G. Guillod, himself blind, has here described in a lucid manner the mental pictures of his surroundings presented to the blind man

by the medium of touch. He writes to

this effect :-

Sighted persons whose earnest aim it is to improve the lot of the blind man, are ever at work seeking to gain a clearer insight into his mentality. What impressions, they wonder, do we form of our surroundings? Our friends are too apt to bombard us with questions on the subject. The ignorant stranger will ask a blind man indiscreet questions, will blunderingly seek to penetrate his most intimate thoughts, never dreaming that he is causing him pain, that he is adding to the burden of his handicap. Many eminent scholars, amongst them M. Dufour, the late lamented friend of the blind, have devoted themselves to minute psychological research, have striven to pierce the veil which separates us from the world of sight, that they might ascertain our conception of Nature, of persons, of the common objects which surround us. even in the world of abstract things. This matter is often broached amongst the blind themselves, and forms the subject of many an interesting discussion. think, therefore, that it may be of use to our readers to give them a few details concerning the blind man's conception of matter. These must needs be brief. owing to lack of space.

There are, happily, in our community, a number of persons whose blindness is more or less partial. They are unable to participate completely in the life of the sighted, but Providence has accorded them

a residue of sight; they can see, "as in a glass, darkly," the world around them. Some of them are dimly cognisant of colours and of forms. Others are aware of a feeble ray of light, which allows them to distinguish between day and night; others again are plunged in absolute darkness. Amongst the latter distinction should from the outset be drawn between those who have been born blind. and those who have become blind at a more or less advanced age. Blind people who retain the recollection of a certain amount of vision naturally possess an exact impression of their surroundings, and can also imagine objects which are outside their range of vision or in realms which are to them physically abstract. A person who becomes blind, even when he loses his sight at a comparatively early age, retains the impressions registered by his eyes. Colour, the sky, a human face—mention of these and kindred matters at once awakens in his mind an image more or less clear according to the strength of his memory, but representing always a visual conception. He enjoys the consolation of memory, of the mental picture of light. But the case of the man blind from early infancy constitutes a different problem. All that comes within the province of sight is unknown. There is no consciousness of objects otherwise than by the medium of touch. pressions registered by the mind—the pictures formed—are nothing but reliefs. The observations made by means of the senses, other than by those of touch, sound, smell, and taste, awaken in his mind not a visual picture, but a tactile impression. The sighted man forms his mental pictures exclusively by means of his eyes. This applies to matters more or less abstract in Nature, for example, the distance which separates us from the remotest stars-the atoms or molecules of which matter is composed—the Soul the Mind-Thought. All these produce,

as it were, visual representation in the mind of the sighted. To the sighted man, too, sounds, seents and taste alike call forth pictures exclusively appertaining to

sight.

From the foregoing we conclude that the mind of the blind man registers not pictures-these can be appreciated by sight alone-but rather reliefs. The fact that touch must needs take the place of sight renders the position of the blind man inferior to that of his sighted brother. Their conceptions of the organic world are totally diverse. As soon as the blind man has received a normal education and comes into contact with society and its intricacies, at once he becomes aware of the gulf which separates him from the sighted. With the growth of experience his intellectual horizon widens, the gulf narrows. But as regards imagination and comprehension of sight, a contrary effect is obtained, for the more the blind man learns to adapt himself to ordinary life, the more intensely does the loss of his eyesight affect him. Deprived of the most precious gift accorded to man, he shares with the sighted man the struggle for existence, and thereby attempts to gain an end which his sighted brother, sometimes far better equipped, realises often but hardly. Our readers may gain a clearer insight into the essential difference which exists between sight and touch if we illustrate our remarks by a few examples. First of all, they must grasp the fact that all things which the blind man cannot perceive by the sense of touch remain to him entirely abstract. He has, for example, no conception of either colour or perspective, except by means of his intelligence. He seeks to comprehend these images by comparison with objects which he can touch. He endeavours to understand colour by means of sound! When he hears of landscapes, mountains, lakes or rivers, he will generally imagine these in the form of the relief maps which he has studied! The representation of persons or objects by portrait or photograph is comprehensible to him alone through his reasoning powers. He can imagine that the play of colours or of light is to the eye what the relief map is to his fingers. In this connection we call to mind the impression produced upon us by a picture. It happened some years ago that our portrait was brought into the room and displayed in a prominent position on a table. The baby of the family, a little boy, two years of age, ran into the room, and at once cried out: "Daddy!" We at once realised that the likeness must be a good one, but naturally we had no comprehension of the relationship which could exist between our own person and a coloured canvas. A statue is, of course, far more comprehensible to us. When you speak to a blind man of a house, of a horse, or a tree, he thinks of these objects either in their reduced forms, like the wooden animals of his childhood, or else as the relief pictures which he so often handles. When he tries to imagine a real horse, especially in motion, the operation becomes difficult and the impression inexact. He sees in succession, or rather he passes his hands mentally over the different parts of the animal. He knows its structure, but whereas one look will result in a single and comprehensive impression, touch yields nothing to his imagination but a succession of different parts. We can, of course, imagine an animal without touching it by hearing or reading about it. But this invariably awakens in our imagination an impression of touch. If a house is mentioned, we think of the façade, the doors, the windows, but always in reduced proportions, each part separately, or else as a relief. An impression of the house as a whole and of its dimensions can only be imagined. In vain the blind man seeks to understand the expression on a human countenance: he can but imagine it by thinking of the infinite flexibility of the human voice, which betrays the personality of the speaker.

It has often been asserted that man's psychic part, or soul, if you will, can leave his body, especially in dreams. Were this possible, the soul of the blind man would be furnished with special faculties, would contemplate horizons and objects completely beyond the limits of imagination. We have heard this belief expressed by the most erudite scholars. These assertions are untrue. Human imagination can experience no impression which has not passed through the senses. The blind man, never having seen, cannot see in his dreams. All his dream impressions are identical with those of his waking

moments.

We repeat once more, then, in conclusion, that visual conception is entirely lacking in the case of the man who was born blind. Impressions of sight are to him entirely abstract.

In spite of his apparently inferior position, notwithstanding difficulties which are often considerable, the blind man's expression is usually serene. Whereas the deaf man is often a pessimist and a misanthrope, the blind man is usually optimistic. He sees the bright side of life, and is usually "happy in his lot." This state of mind is due to a variety of causes, which we are unable to discuss here and now. (To be concluded.)

In recording the lamented death of Mr. Ernest Littlewood in last month's issue of the Beacon, it was stated that he received his musical training at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood. We are now asked to say that Mr. Littlewood left the college at the age of fourteen, and was then privately trained in music. His pianoforte-master, the late Mr. I. T. Price, was blind. His singing-master was Mr. Egbert Roberts, and he also took singing and organ lessons from Mr. Josiah Booth, F.R.C.O. (late organist at Park Chapel, Crouch End). Mr. Littlewood also studied Harmony at the City of London College, Moorfields.

AN URGENT NEED

A CCORDING to an announcement which appears in the advertisement column of this number of *The Beacon*, trained teachers of the blind are needed for important Missionary Institutions in Ceylon.

The Institution at Mount Lavinia is in great need of increased accommodation, and last year a Flag Day was arranged which resulted in the collection of Rs. 51,000. The Government has since then promised to provide three new blocks

of buildings.

The school work is divided into three sections: Sinhalese, Tamil, and Engalish; the Government code for the sighted being followed within certain limits. The chief subjects taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and grammar. General information, nature lessons, and sense training form important items in the curriculum. Handwork, singing and piano are taught in special cases. When older the children learn industrial work, such as chair-caning, cloth weaving on hand looms and basket-making. A kindergarten for blind babies has been started. Tamil and Sinhalese Braille codes are used with good results.

Further information together with photographs, will be gladly sent by the secretary, Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, 27, Chancery Lane,

London, W.C.2.

THE INNER VISION

I know that Spring is near by tokens sweet

That you, who watch the sun swing o'er the sky,

May not enjoy, although, with sight complete,

You see the seasons hurry by.

I feel the morning sun upon my brow,
I hear the blackbird piping to his mate,
I scent the violets in the wet hedgerow,

The brook sings to me in its headlong spate.

You must not think for me the world is dark

Because with sightless eyes I pass you by,

My mind wings skyward with the happy lark.

My thoughts the eyes that follow it on high.

The Creed of Beauty is to me a song
That all may chant aloud, the maimed,
the blind,

The myriad sufferers of each man-made wrong

All, all may learn dear Nature's balm to find.

The wind, the rain, the birds, each wellloved voice,

The murmur of the sea on sun-kissed

Proclaim with one accord: "Rejoice!

The light Within is thine for evermore!"

PHILIP HEMERY.





N our last number we were able to give our readers a brief insight into the life and work of Samuel Gridley Howe. It is fitting that this account should have been written by the present director of the institution which owes its very life to that great educator of the blind. It was after he had paid a visit to the principal institutions for

the blind in Europe at the instigation of Dr. John Fisher, of Boston, that Dr. Howe gathered together a few blind children in Massachusetts whom he proceeded to educate. He hoped that the public would come to realise the value and necessity of education for the blind, and so great were his efforts that in 1833 a sufficient sum of money had been raised for the endowment of an institution for that purpose. A large house was generously presented by Mr. Perkins, and the teaching and training of blind children was undertaken on a large scale.

In 1837 Dr. Howe first heard of Laura Bridgman. Of all the causes which he championed—of all his work for suffering humanity—surely there was achieved no greater or finer thing than the emancipation of this handicapped human soul.

This, briefly, is the story:—

Laura Dewey Bridgman was born on December 21st, 1820, at Hanover, New Hampshire, U.S.A. She was the third daughter of Daniel Bridgman, a farmer, and Harmony, granddaughter of Joseph Downer, one of the first settlers in Thetford, Vermont. Until her second year Laura was in full possession of all her senses; she learnt to talk, and was active and intelligent beyond her age. Then a severe attack of scarlet fever destroyed both sight and hearing, blunted the sense of smell, and left her a mental prisoner. Her only means of communication with the outside world was the sense of touch, and her sensitive disposition very soon

enabled her to discriminate between the approving pat, the tap of disapproval, the pull of admission and the push of dismissal. We are told that when quite a little child she was warmly attached to an old gentleman named Mr. Asa Tenney, with whom she roamed the country-side, and for whom she entertained a life-long affection.

Dr. Howe had already deeply considered the question as to whether a deafblind mute could be taught an arbitrary, as apart from a sign, language. So far every recorded effort in this direction! failed. But, nothing daunted, he determined to penetrate the darkness and the silence and to stretch a rescuing hand towards this soul in bondage. He went to see Laura, and afterwards wrote: found her with a well-formed figure; a strangely marked nervous temperament; a large and beautifully-shaped head, and the whole system in healthy action." October, 1837, at the age of eight, Laura Bridgman entered the Perkins Institution. Here, after due consideration, it was decided to teach her the letters of ordinary language, by means of which it was hoped that she would be able to express her wishes and ideas as they developed. With the assistance of Miss Drew, one of the teachers at the Institution, Dr. Howe proceeded to give Laura her first lesson: He describes these early efforts as follows:-

"The first experiments were made by taking articles in common use, such as knives, forks, spoons, keys, etc., and pasting upon them labels printed in raised letters. These she felt very carefully.

"Then small detached labels, with the same words printed upon them, were put into her hands; and she soon observed that they were similar to the ones pasted on the articles. She showed her perception of this similarity by laying the label 'k-e-y' upon the key, and the label 's-p-o-on' upon the spoon.

"The same process was repeated with all the articles she could handle; and she very easily learned to place proper labels upon them. It was evident, however, that the only intellectual exercise was that of

imitation and memory.

"After a while, instead of labels, the individual letters were given to her on detached pieces of paper; they were arranged side by side so as to spell 'b-o-o-k,' 'k-e-y,' etc.; then they were mixed up in a heap, and a sign was made to her to arrange them herself so as to express the words book, key, etc., and

she did so.

"Hitherto the process had been mechanical.... The poor child had sat in mute amazement, and patiently imitated everything her teacher did; but now the truth began to flash upon her; her intellect began to work; she perceived that here was a way by which she could herself make up a sign of anything that was in her own mind, and show it to another mind; and at once her countenance lighted up with a human expression ... an immortal spirit was eagerly seizing upon a new link of unison with other spirits!"

In his interesting account of Laura Bridgman and her teachers, Mr. J. B. Mannix compares the attempts at communication with her imprisoned mind to the wireless telegraphy of the present day, "with this important difference—that with a blind deaf-mute no mutual code at first existed. The method of communication had to be taught. Dr. Howe had to begin at the beginning, and to flash signals across the darkness and the silence to little Laura's wondering, eager, and sensi-

tive brain.'

Following on her first instruction, Laura practised for some little time according to the above-mentioned method. She was then given a case of metal type, and soon learnt to compose the words with which she was already familiar. Next she was taught the manual alphabet, and eagerly learnt the name of every object with which she came into contact. "She placed her right hand over mine," writes her teacher, "so that she could feel every change of position, and with the greatest anxiety watched for each letter; then she attempted to spell it herself; and as she mastered the word her anxiety changed to delight. . . . I shall never forget the first meal taken after she had

appreciated the use of the finger alphabet. Every article that she touched must have a name. . . . She kept me busy spelling the new words." The names of her teachers, her companions, of verbs of action and other parts of speech were learnt by this method. She learnt to converse with all, to ask questions, to exchange ideas. About a year after this she was taught to write. Arithmetic was taught by means of a metal case perforated with square holes, square type being employed.



LAURA BRIDGMAN

By degrees she was given religious instruction. This was no simple matter, and Dr. Howe progressed slowly and wisely, intent upon conveying to the mind of his youthful pupil before all else the essential moral truths of the Bible. It was soon felt that she should have the entire services of a teacher at her disposal, and first Miss Swift, then Miss Wright, and later Miss Paddock were deputed to this task. A careful record was kept of her intellectual development. It was felt that a study of the methods employed in her training would be of considerable value, as has, indeed, proved to be the case.

It is interesting to mention that for many years Laura kept a journal in which were set down her thoughts and opinions. It constitutes the record of the inner working of an upright, conscientious spirit, ever open to advice, ever anxious for self-

improvement.

Laura's one unimpaired sense, that of touch, was very highly developed. Seldom were those agile fingers at rest, and Dr. Howe has compared them to the incessantly moving antennæ of some little insect. She possessed an absolutely correct knowledge of her immediate surroundings, and later was immediately aware when the keys of the piano were being touched. Her sense of direction enabled her to walk with unfaltering footsteps across a room, avoiding every obstacle in her course.

In 1850 Dr. Howe writes:-

"Hen progress has been a curious and interesting spectacle. She has come into human society with a sort of triumphal march; her course has been a perpetual ovation. Thousands have been watching her with eager eyes, and applauding each successful step, while she, all unconscious of their gaze, holding on to the slender thread and feeling her way along, has advanced with faith and courage towards those who awaited her with trembling hope."

And so she blossomed into womanhood—gay, cheerful, loving, and optimistic, absorbedly interested in the public topics of the day, and with a deep love for little children.

In 1842 Charles Dickens paid a visit to the Perkins Institution, which he describes in detail in his American Notes. We hope to quote his description of the institution in a future number of The Beacon. There is no space in which to so now, but here is the novelist's

impression of Laura:-

"I sat down in a room," he says, "before a girl, blind, deaf and dumb; destitute of smell, and nearly so of taste; before a fair, young creature, with every human faculty and hope and power of goodness and affection, enclosed within her delicate frame, and but one outward sense—the sense of touch. There she was before me; built up, as it were, in a marble cell, impervious to any ray of light, or particle of sound; with her poor white hand peeping through a chink in the wall, beckening to some good man

for help, that an immortal soul might be awakened.

"Long before I looked upon her the help had come. Her face was radiant with intelligence and pleasure. Her hair, braided by her own hands, was bound about a head whose intellectual capacity and development were beautifully expressed in its graceful outline, and its broad, open brow; her dress, arranged by herself, was a pattern of neatness and simplicity; the work she had knitted lay beside her; her writing-book was upon the desk upon which she leaned. From the mournful ruin of such bereavement there had 'slowly risen up this gentle, tender, guileless, grateful-hearted being."

It is said that during a short period, following on the death of her sister, a change came over Laura's mind. She joined the Baptist Church, and the letters which she wrote at that time are formal and pietistic in tone. In 1872 the cottage home system was adopted; Laura moved from the institution and lived for one year at each of the cottages in turn. And growing old gracefully, her character ripened and grew sweeter and sweeter with advancing lyears. In 1876 died Dr. Howe, and to his death-bed came the woman to whom he had given all that makes life worth living. On her fiftyeighth birthday, in 1887, was celebrated the jubilee of her entry into the Institution. In 1889 she died.

The story of her life is the story of a victory achieved by an indomitable spirit over its own limitations. In the fight there were two victors, and the laurels must needs be divided between Laura Bridgman and Samuel Gridley Howe.

..... ap. ap

THE engagement is announced of Sir Neville Pearson, Bt., a vice-president of St. Dunstan's, and Chairman of the Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund, to Miss Mary Angela Mond, daughter of Sir Alfred Mond, Minister of Health.

apo -300

At the National Institute for the Blind, on Thursday, March 9th, at six o'clock, there will be a lecture on "The Orchestra," by Mr. Alec Robertson, with gramophone illustrations.

THE BLIND AND EDUCATION

To the Editor of The Beacon.

S IR,—I have read with interest Mr. Swift's letter in the February issue of The Beacon, containing comments on my article on the College for Blind Girls at Chorley Wood in the November issue. The firmest foundation, of course, of Mr. Swift's opinion that the blind should be taught side by side with the sighted is his own experience. But whereas his opinion is based on individual experience, mine, as expressed in the article in question, is based on the general knowledge of the extraordinarily successful results which are obtained by schools and col-leges for the blind. In schools for the blind the teaching staff consists of people who have specialised in the training of the blind, which includes, of course, the inculcation of-to quote Mr. Swift-"the sighted view-point which is so essential to success in after life." It is evident that such trained teachers, who have special-ised in the methods which by general consent most quickly convey instruction to the blind, are infinitely better fitted to impart such instruction than the teachers in sighted schools, who cannot be familiar with such special methods. I quite agree that many failures on the part of blind people are due to their inability to "grasp the view-point of their sighted competi-tors," but it is only by specialising on the part of instructors in the methods of presenting this view-point to the blind that it can be grasped by them without undue effort

In exceptional cases a blind student may not feel apart and abnormal in schools for the sighted, but I feel sure that all instructors of the blind will endorse my view, which is strictly logical, that in the general run blind students feel infinitely less apart and abnormal in a school for the blind, seeing that it is normal to be sighted, and abnormal to be blind.

It needs an exceptionally strong character for a blind person to feel perfectly at home in sighted schools. However sympathetically he may be treated, the blind pupil must be fully conscious that certain activities of his schoolmates are for him a physical impossibility. In many cases this must breed a certain sensitiveness which would render him shy

of being to any extent whatever a hindrance to his schoolmates in their work and play. Again, the normality of a blind pupil is almost entirely dependent on the wisdom of his teacher. Is it not reasonable to presume, then, that such—if I may use the phrase—special wisdom is more frequently met with in trained instructors of the blind than in teachers in schools for the sighted?

In schools for the blind special apparatus and embossed literature are universally used, and are the chief means of instruction for the teacher. In schools for the sighted, even though a blind pupil may possess a few Braille books and some simple pieces of apparatus, he is limited almost entirely to his own efforts, as the use of them is unfamiliar to the teacher. As a matter of fact he is bound to occupy a lower position in a class than a sighted pupil with similar mental ability, unless both he and his teacher expend as much more energy and effort as will eliminate entirely the natural drawbacks attendant on his handicap.

As to the constant companionship of sighted children, this is a debatable point, but it appears to me that it must be a great asset for the blind to have the constant companionship of teachers who have studied from A to Z the needs of the blind and of those who have the same difficulties to overcome. A case in point is the happiness and normality of the little children at Sunshine House, the Blind Babies' Home of the National Institute for the Blind. These children talk to a sighted person with all the vivacity, the life, the naturalness of a healthy, sighted child. And it has been found that they take higher places in their respective classes in schools for the blind when they leave Sunshine House than those who have not had the benefit of the Sunshine House régime and Kindergarten, that is to say, those who are brought up in their own homes, presumably with their sighted brothers and sisters.

As to the after-careers of blind people who have been educated at schools for the blind, one need but examine the record of successes attained in various walks of life by past students of such well-known institutions as Worcester College for the Blind, the Royal Normal College, Upper

Norwood, etc. I think that if a comparison were made between the after-careers of blind pupils at schools for the blind and at sighted schools it would be in

favour of the former.

To sum up briefly: I maintain that, although in exceptional cases the education of the blind in schools for the sighted may yield an excellent result, for the majority of blind students, and even for those exceptional cases, an education at a school or college for the blind where every approved means of training the blind is utilised by expert teachers is better and yields better results.

Yours etc., G. F. MOWATT, Chairman of Standing Committee and Hon. Treasurer, National Institute for the Blind.

To the Editor of The Beacon.

Sir,—The article on the education of the Blind, in the February number of The Beacon, opens up an interesting point. The view taken by Mr. Mowatt quoted in your article in favour of the higher education of blind girls, provided for them at Chorley Wood, and the personal experience of Mr. Swift in Canada, are so opposed that at first it becomes a riddle as to which is the best method of drawing out the greatest amount of mental ability, which may be only checked in its progress

by the disability of blindness.

It is a frequent observation, when visiting blind institutions, that the expression of most of the workers is blank. Why is this? Does it signify a lack of intelligence, or does it mean that the work is of such a monotonous character that it becomes absolutely mechanical, or that it requires so much concentration that it leaves no room for other thoughts? Probably it may mean a little of all three. One thing is, however, fairly certain, viz., that blindness itself tends to contract rather than expand human nature. It must be so, even with those who have suffered it in adult life, and who have fought a good fight and overcome the initial difficulties and laid the lines of their life on a dif-Doubtless experiments ferent track. have been made in many directions, but the one which requires the co-operation of the sighted appears to have not, as yet, received sufficient thought in England. It is this co-operation which is essential

to break down the prevailing idea that the blind can only be educated in places specially provided for them, or, in other words, when they are segregated from the rest of the world. In some cases, this is probably the best way of dealing with them, but for others it must be a source of contraction which must induce mental distress.

The experiment of adding out-door occupations to the education of the blind has already been made, and so far as it has gone, not without success in promoting the expansion, the mental interest, and the physical health, which, when combined, produce the happiness of greater independence. Time alone can show whether this will form any appreciable part of the education of the blind. The question is largely one of results for the sighted to decide. It is a debatable question, and one which might well be discussed with advantage to both the sighted and the blind.

> Yours etc., BEATRICE DUNCOMBE.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE

W ITH a view to raising the status and increasing the efficiency of Craft Instructors in Schools for the Blind, a course of lectures and demonstrations has been arranged by the College of Teachers of the Blind, at the instance of the Board of Education. This course will be held at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W.3, from May 23rd to

26th, 1922.

The programme will be as follows:
May 23rd, Mr. Frank Roscoe, secretary,
Teachers' Registration Council, will
lecture on "The Teacher's Task," with
Miss Garraway, chairman of the Executive Committee of the College, in the chair.
The lecture will be followed by demonstrations in basket-making, mat-making,
pianoforte-tuning and repairing, boot
repairing and machine-knitting. In the
afternoon a visit will be paid to the Royal
Normal College, Upper Norwood.

Normal College, Upper Norwood.

May 24th.—Mr. Guy M. Campbell, F.R.G.S., will lecture on "Schemes of Work in Industrial Courses," when Mr. T. F. Hobson, J.P., M.A., F.S.A., chairman of the Council of the School for the

Blind, Swiss Cottage, will take the chair. The lecture will be followed by sectional demonstrations and discussions, and an excursion to the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, is planned for the afternoon.

May 25th.—Mr. J. M. Ritchie, M.A., will lecture on "Class Management, Discipline, etc.," and Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind, and Hon. Registrar of the College, will occupy the chair. Discussions and demonstrations will again follow, and a visit to the Association for the General Welfare of the Blind, Tottenham Court Road.

May 26th.—Mr. H. Mullins, F.C.I.S., will lecture on "Commercial Aspects of Industrial Training" with Dr. A. Eichholz, Chief Medical Inspector of the Board of Education in the chair.

The fee for the course is 10s., and application, accompanied by the fee, should be sent to the Hon. Registrar at the above address not later than April 15th, 1922.

THE next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3, on May 30th and 31st, 1922. Form of application can be obtained from the Hon. Registrar, 224-6-8, Great Portland Street, London, W.I., and must be returned to him not later than April 18th, 1922.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY SPECIAL SCHOOLS

THE Board of Education, in a recently published circular (dated January 27th, and numbered 1246) state that in view of the present financial position and the high cost of Special Schools, it is anticipated that in the case of grants for Voluntary Special Schools (which include the Schools for the Blind) in respect of the year 1922-23, and until further notice, they will not be able to pay grants on an average attendance in excess of that for 1921-22. This warning only applies, of course, to the grant which is paid direct by the Board to the Managers.

As regards children sent to Voluntary Special Schools by Local Education Authorities, the Board (in a circular dated January 27th, and numbered 1245) state they may have to restrict their total expenditure to the provision for Blind Children in 1922-23 to the amount incurred in 1921-22. This warning, it is stated, is given without prejudice and must not be taken to imply that even further reductions may not be found necessary or that similar reductions may not be asked for in connection with other special services.

The number of children to be sent to any Voluntary Special School by each Authority remains as hitherto a matter for arrangement between the Institution

and the Authority.

The Report of the Geddes Committee, published on January 10th, recommends that no children under six years of age should attend State-aided schools. The Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, enforces the school attendance of blind children at the age of five. It remains, therefore, to be seen whether the recommendations of the Geddes Economy Committee will have the effect of over-riding this proviso and of barring the admission of blind children into certified schools before they have attained their sixth year.

In connection with the above the following resolution has been passed by the College of Teachers of the Blind:—

The Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind regretfully finds itself compelled to protest in the strongest manner possible against the policy of the Board of Education, as outlined in its circulars Nos. 1245 and 1246 of January 27th, 1922, and to urge upon the Board the necessity for a speedy reversal of that The seriousness of the situation is increased by the fact that the Blind Persons' Act, 1920, has laid the entire responsibility for the care of the blind on local authorities, while the policy outlined in the Board's circulars will prevent them from discharging these obligations. The education and training of the blind is a growing service, and the Committee views with alarm the prospect of many blind boys and girls having to remain without that training which would render them self-supporting members of the community. The Committee feels that the soundest and most economical policy is to provide training for every trainable blind person, so that he or she may become, as far as possible, independent of support from public funds."

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

M. G. F. MOWATT, J.P., Chairman of the Standing Committee, has been elected Hon. Treasurer of the National Institute for the Blind, in place of the late Sir Arthur Pearson. This includes the Hon. Treasurership of the Moon Society, Clifton Home for Blind Women, and the Home Teaching Society for the Blind.

Mr. P. M. Evans, M.A., LL.D., clerk to the Worshipful Company of Cloth-workers, Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, E.C., and Mr. J. H. Batty, Manor House, Chorley Wood, Herts, donor of the Cedars College for Blind Girls, and a generous benefactor of the National Institute, have been elected members of the Council.

The Bishop of Chester has been elected a vice-president of the National Institute

for the Blind.

On Thursday, February 23rd, an enjoyable staff dinner was held at Pagani's Restaurant by the National Institute for the Blind. As we are about to go to press a full account of the proceedings will be given in next month's issue of The Beacon.

WE learn with much pleasure that Mr. Frank Selby, F.R.C.O., who was trained at the Birmingham Institution, has been appointed to teach tuning at the Exeter Institution for the Blind. Mr. Selby will also assist the Music Department by giving piano lessons to the younger students.

THE Indian papers publish the following letter which Bhoja Dhong Singh, a blind beggar of Tindharia, near Darjeeling, has sent to the treasurers of the Royal Reception Fund:

I am a poor old blind beggar who is starving and with the greatest difficulties in these hard days, many a time without a meal a day. I feel greatly rejoiced at the coming of our Almighty Prince. After a day's starve I have been able to save annas three and pies nine only, which I am enclosing in postage stamps as a token of love and loyalty. It is my heart's desire that he should come and set aside all our grievances. So it would be a great favour done to me if Your Honour please to accept this little sum.

MUSIC BY THE BLIND FOR PRINCESS MARY

ON the occasion of the Royal Marriage, a gift was presented to H.R.H. Princess Mary by the Executive Council and Staff of the National Institute for the Blind. This gift took the form of a collection of the twenty pieces of music which are contained in the National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers, all of which have already been printed separately by the Institute.

These include musical pieces by the following: Alfred J. Thompson, William Wolstenholme, Horace F. Watling, Sin-clair Logan, Frederick W. Priest, Hubert G. Oke, Alfred Wrigley, H. V. Spanner, Llewellyn Williams, and T. G. Osborn.

A letterpress superscription, is followed by the same wording, printed in Braille type. This reads as follows: The members of the Executive Council and the Staff of the National Institute for the Blind beg Her Royal Highness, Princess Mary, to accept this copy of the National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers on the occasion of her marriage, the 28th of February, 1922." The volume is bound in grey leather, decorated in gold, and the work was carried out in the binding department of the Institute.

We learn that Princess Mary's bridal bouquets, consisting of pale pink sweetpeas, tied with blue and silver ribbons, were ordered from Mr. Douglas Hope, the blind ex-officer of the Scots Guards, who owns the little Victory shop in the Piccadilly Arcade.

THE following telegram from H.M. Oueen Alexandra has been received by Lady Pearson: "My best thanks for the Memorial numbers of St. Dunstan's Review and of The Beacon, which you have kindly sent me. My thoughts and prayers are with you in carrying on your dear husband's noble work."
"ALEXANDRA."



in Metropolitan Districts South of Thames and Adjacent Counties



MEETING was held in the Armitage Hall, National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London, on Thursday, February 16th, at 2.30 p.m., to consider a suggested Home Workers' Scheme for the blind in the Metropolitan Districts south of the Thames, and the Counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire.

Mr. G. F. Mowatt, J.P., Hon. Treasurer and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Institute for the Blind, was in the chair. He was supported by Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., Chairman of the Council of the National Institute; Captain Towse, V.C., Vice-Chairman; Dr. P. M. Evans, member of the Council; and Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General of the National Institute, while the Ministry of Health was represented on the platform by Mr. E. D. Macgregor; Mr. Miles Priestley and Mr. T. H. Thurman, Inspectors of the Ministry, were also present. Representatives from the following Councils had been invited to attend the meeting: London, Kent, Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex County Councils and Canterbury, Portsmouth, Croydon, Brighton, East-bourne, and Hastings Town Councils.

Mr. Mowatt, in his opening words, said that he was particularly glad that the Ministry of Health and the National Institute for the Blind were now working in the closest accord, because the National Institute was far and away the greatest organisation for the blind in the country—and, indeed, in the world—and the Ministry had now got a Government Department, extremely ably represented by Mr. E. D. Macgregor, dealing with matters connected with the blind throughout the country.

He felt that a brighter day was dawning for the blind nationally, but in utilis-

ing the forces at work great care should be taken to prevent overlapping. Voluntary agencies (including the National Institute) Government Departments and Local Authorities, must work in accord, and in such manner the lot of the blind throughout the country would be advanced in every way.

Mr. Mowatt then entered into details of the scheme—given below—and went on to lay special emphasis on the urgent necessity of helping the blind home worker.

The problem to be faced was: are such blind people to become paupers and come entirely on the rates, or are they to be trained and thus enabled to work in their own homes, so that they might become, to a limited extent, self-supporting?

The Ministry of Health had made a grant of £20 per head for each home worker, and it was up to the local authorities to augment the grant of the Ministry.

The Ministry had approached the National Institute and asked it to take over the Home Workers' Scheme for the district south of the Thames. member of the Council of the National Institute, the speaker fully realised, and he thought the Ministry realised it too, that there was nobody so fitted to carry out the work as the National Institute; it had the necessary machinery, and its home teachers were in touch with the blind in the very counties concerned. Its head offices were in London, and it had officers who were second to none in their experience and knowledge of the blind. For these reasons the National Institute had been approached to work the Home Workers' Scheme and, feeling its duty towards the blind as a *National* Institute, it had felt bound seriously to consider shouldering the responsibility of working the scheme.

The National Institute was not, however, anxious to accept this responsibility: it was certainly not going to make money out of it. But the National Institute was going to do its very best for the scheme. and the speaker felt sure that by friendly discussion some agreement would be arrived at which, at the same time, would benefit the local rates and, above all, the blind themselves.

After dealing with further points as to the administration of the proposed scheme, the speaker once more laid emphasis on the fruitful results of working in accord and sympathy. Overlapping, all misunderstanding and unnecessary jealousies were bound to hurt the blind and damage their cause. That cause was the sole object of all present at the meeting, representatives of local Councils, the Ministry of Health, and the National Institute alike.

Only those who had been closely connected with work for the blind, as the speaker had, could realise the intense suffering and quiet, patient endurance which was going on in the blind world. MR. MACGREGOR (representing the

Ministry of Health) said that he was really at the meeting in order to answer any questions which might be asked. He pointed out that in several areas a Home Workers' Scheme was already successfully in operation. There were three main ways in which the scheme had special value to the blind :-

In supplying the workers with mate-

(2) In maintaining a proper standard of workmanship by expert supervision.

(3) In marketing the finished goods. The Ministry of Health was willing to make a grant of £20 per head per annum for each home worker, but further assistance would be required from the County or Borough Council in order to work the scheme efficiently.

During the debate which followed. MR. MACGREGOR further stated that the National Institute would welcome the closest co-operation with the local bodies, either voluntary or official. The accounts for the scheme would have to be got out on the lines drawn up by the Ministry of Health, and copies would be supplied to local authorities on demand. The Ministry would closely scrutinise the accounts and the local authorities would have the safeguard that the full £20 would only be paid in respect of home workers earning the full amount per week as specified in the outline of the scheme, the Ministry of Health grant being reduced proportionately in the case of home workers earning less than that sum. The Ministry of Health would require to be satisfied that the scheme was being efficiently conducted.

THE CHAIRMAN made it quite clear that if after the National Institute had been working the Home Workers' Scheme in certain areas for some time, and the local authorities then desired to work the scheme themselves, the National Institute would be only too pleased to be relieved

of their responsibility.

SIR WASHINGTON RANGER, D.C.L. (Chairman, National Institute) pointed out that there should be no mistake on the point that the National Institute's liability under such a scheme was not in-

definite, but limited.

Several other points in the scheme were discussed, and the debate closed by the passing of a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, coupled with the expression of opinion by all the representatives of the local councils present that they had come to a full understanding of what had been put before them. It was decided that all the local councils in the area in question should be provided with fuller details of the administration of the scheme, and the matter should then be put before the local councils concerned.

OUTLINE OF THE HOME WORKERS' SCHEME.

In carrying out clause 2 (1) of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, in which provision is made for the employment of the blind, the attention of County and Borough Councils is drawn to the fact that there are two classes of industrially employed blind persons-those provided

for in special workshops and those who, having learnt a trade, have to practise it in their own homes. It is with the latter that this scheme deals. The Ministry of Health places them in a separate category and calls them "home workers," making an annual capitation grant to

approved agency undertaking the care of them. The grant is £20 for every man who earns not less than 16s. per week, and for every woman who earns not less than 8s. It is reduced in proportion if the earnings fall below these figures.

The National Institute has been asked by the Ministry of Health to be responsible for a Home Workers' Scheme for the Metropolitan District South of the Thames, and for the Counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire, and is favourably disposed to do this provided the responsible local authorities will encourage the work (1) by assisting in financing it, and (2) by fostering the trades practised by the home workers.

The Council of the National Institute are ready and willing to place their influence and extensive knowledge and experience at the service of the scheme, but apart from this they have decided that the proposition must be on a self-supporting basis. They have no desire to make any profit whatever. All financial and other help, which local authorities give, will be directly and entirely for the benefit of the blind home workers. The Council of the Institute, therefore, solicit the kind and generous co-operation of the responsible local authorities.

Should a question of economy arise, the Council venture to think that a Home Workers' Service, efficiently conducted, is in the direction of true economy, because it will have the effect of making heavily handicapped folk self-supporting, who otherwise would be a burden on the rates.

If the Institute undertakes the work, the services it will render to the blind home workers will include the following:—

 The provision and maintenance of tools and equipment.

II.—The supply of raw materials at cost price.

III.—The supervision of the home worker and the systematic inspection of his work by competent visitors with a view to producing thoroughly saleable articles.

IV.—Assistance in securing orders and marketing his goods. This will take various forms, e.g., by private retail sales to local users; by securing the custom of public bodies; by organising sales of work, etc, etc.

V.—Augmentation of earnings as far as funds will permit.

It is an established fact that blindness handicaps a manual worker to the extent of at least fifty per cent. in his earning capacity; hence the necessity of making up this deficiency at least to some extent.

It should be mentioned that the Institute has for many years systematically visited, and in a variety of ways assisted, the scattered blind in the defined area. This assistance has been in the form of teaching the blind to read, lending them books, relieving distress, securing pensions, hospital tickets, etc., and recently in giving such technical instruction as will enable the recipient in some degree to practise some useful remunerative pastime.

The Council feel that this Branch, known as the Home Teaching Branch, might with advantage be linked up with a Home Workers' Scheme.

As far as can be ascertained there are at present 205 home workers in the area

—106 men and 99 women. They are distributed as follows:—

	Men Women		Total		
London	15		26	 41	
Kent	15		29	 44	
Surrey	14		9	 23	
Hampshire	39		16	 5.5	
Sussex	23		19	 42	
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With reference to the question of finance, the Council suggest that County and Borough Councils should assist the Institute's Home Workers' Scheme:—

(1) By allocating to it a proportion of the money set aside by them for assisting the blind under the Blind Persons' Act.

(2) By making a per capita grant according to the number of workers benefited, or

(3) By making up any deficiency on the cost of running the scheme within the area.

The National Institute will be glad to submit reports from time to time to the authorities concerned as to the working of the scheme and as far as possible to meet suggestions from the authorities as to the expenditure of any sums paid to it by the authorities, and it is suggested that, until more experience has been gained, the scheme be regarded as in an experimental stage.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

February, 1922		
FICTION.		
Ibanez, V. B. Sonnica	4	vols.
Jerome, K. Jerome. Malvina of Britanny		
and other Stories	3	vols
Marsh, R. The Beetle	5	vols.
Walpole, Hugh. Jeremy	3	vole.
	U	VULS.
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Carpenter, A. F. B., R.N., V.C. Block-		
ing of Zebrugge, 1918	4	vols.
Chaucer, G. Canterbury Tales		vols.
Esher, Viscount. Tragedy of Lord Kit-		
chener	2	vols.
Gardiner, A. The Convert's Rosary.		
Mackenzie, J. S. Manual of Ethics	q	vole
Murray, Sir John. The Ocean		vols.
	J	VOIS.
(E. W. Austin Memorial Fund)		
Rogers, A. K. Student's History of Phil-		
osophy	9	vols.
MOON		
*London, Jack. Island Tales	4	vols.

THE following entertainments will be held at the National Library for the Blind, and you and your friends are cordially invited to be present: On Monday, March 6th, at 7.45 p.m., a reading of "Romeo and Juliet," by Alderman H. Keatley Moore, B.A., Mus.Bac., J.P., and

a number of friends, each one reading the part of a character in the play.

On Monday, March 27th, at 7.45, a concert lecture entitled "The Classics and the Romantic in Music: A contrast or a development?" by Alderman H. Keatley Moore, B.A., Mus.Bac. J.P. With numerous illustrations by Mr. Keatley Moore's choir for the study of unaccompanied part-singing.

On Tuesday, April 25th, at 8.15 p.m., a reading by Mr. Ernest Allen and friends, of Oscar Wilde's farcical comedy, "The Importance of Being Earnest."

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The After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind report that during the month of January 54 fresh cases came under their care (45 men and 9 women). Gifts to the number of 27 were provided at a cost of £53 15s. 2d. Fifty visits were paid. The amount expended in fees was £477 19s. 8d., and in relief £577 10s. 9d.

THE centenary of the death of Valentin Haup will be celebrated in Paris next July, when a congress will be held under the auspices of the following Institutions for the Blind: "L'Institution Nationale des Jeunes Aveugles," "L'Association Valentin Haüp," "L'Amitié des Aveugles de France," and "L'Union des Aveugles de Guerre." M. René Doumic, of the French Academy, will preside, and the congress will be held in the Salle des Fettes of the "Institution Nationale des Jeunes Aveugles," 56, Boulevard des Invalides, Paris, on July 17th. The duration of the congress will be, approximately, six days.

The matter under discussion will be divided into ten sections, as follows:—

Medical Matters.
 Instruction.

3. Systems and Apparatus.

4. After-care (on leaving school).
5. New Occupations for the Blind.

6. The Blind Woman.
7. The Blinded Soldier.

8 Relief.

Legislation.
 Miscellaneous.

Further details and a full programme of matters to be discussed will be supplied to applicants shortly after March 1st, 1022.

The fee of membership is ten francs, and forms, together with preliminary programmes (in French) are obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8, Great Portland Street, London, W.I.

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The Fawcett Memorial Scholarship

The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers

Notice is hereby given that the TENTH ELECTION to this SCHOLARSHIP will take place in June next. Candidates must send in applications not later than Thursday, the 27th April next. The Scholarship, which is of the annual value of £50, will be awarded to a deserving blind person or persons so far deprived of sight as to need to use his or her fingers for reading, and will be tenable for a maximum period of four years at any of the Universities of the United Kingdom, including Women's Colleges at such Universities. Candidates must be between the ages of 17 and 23 at the time of the election. Forms of application and further particulars can be obtained from the CLERK to the Clothworkers' Company, Qualified and eligible candidates may be required to attend for Examination in May, of which due notice will be given to them. Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.3.

^{*} Presented by the National Institute for the Blind.

Contents of the February Numbers

- Progress.—Paper and Paper-Making—The Making of a Will—"When I saw you first, Vee" (Poem)—Do the Blind Sleep Badly?—England's Longest Tunnels— Garden Notes (February) — Bird - Tahle Joys — Exploration in Africa—Our Prize Competition— Matters of the Moment-The Question-Box-Chess -Our Home Page -Advertisements.
- The Literary Journal.—Buff and Blue—Motion-Study in the Workshop—Mediæval Oxford—The Sacred Cat—Bible Teaching in Schools—Mr. Asquith on Lord Kitchener—"The Song of Songs"—Detective Science-National Library for the Blind-Recent Addition to the Massage Library-Shoemaking and Fame-Literary Notes.
- School Magazine,—The Pathfinder of the Oceans ("My Magazine")—Shrove Tuesday—Good Breeding, Lord Chesterfield (1694–1773)—In the Tree Tops ("John o' London")—Chaucer's Canterbury Tales ("Children's Encyclopædia")—The Water-Vole, by H. Mortimer Batten—Queries—Petrol ("Little Folks")—Biography in Brief: Roger Ascham (1515-68)—Walled Cities of Western China—Poems of Henry Van Dyke—The Girl who held the Fort ("Children's Encyclopædia").
- Comrades—The "Faerie Queene"—Tree-Top Town, by Margaret Cameron, L.L. A.—Helpful Tom (from by Margaret Cameron, L.L.A.—Freipiu 1 om (100m) the Second Oxford Reading Book)—Betty (Grade I)—Gog and Magog (from the "Children's Encyclopedia")—"If I had a Broomstick," by Patrick R. Chalmers—Puzzles—The Cobbler and the Elves—How Twinkle lost his Wings ("My Magazine.")
- Braille Musical Magazine.-Reminiscences of the late W. T. Best (concluded)—Tuners' Column— Tuned by Telephone—Notes and News Concerning the Blind—The World of Music—National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers -Music at the Thanet Arts and Crafts Exhibition— Advertisement—New Invention by a Blind Tuner— The Teaching and Value of Improvisation—Supple-ment: Braille Music Reviews—Insets: Songs, "Dolcino to Margaret" and "As the Barque Floated On," by H. G. Oke; Organ, "Festival Toccata in B flat," by W. Wolstenholme.
- Wanted, by the Newport and Monmouthshire Blind Aid Society, a MALE and a FEMALE HOME TEACHER, partially Blind preferred. Salaries commencing at £130. Apply, giving full particulars, to the Secretary, 27 Charles Street, Newport.
- THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND has in stock a supply of GERDA TYPE-WRITERS. These Machines, specially constructed for the use of the blind, are portable, and can be manipulated with case. Price 35s., plus carriage. Braille instructions provided with each machine.

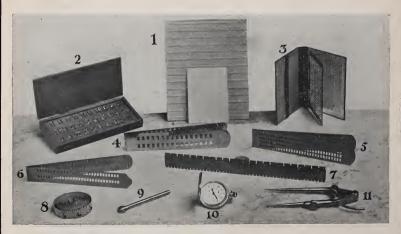
- Massage Journal, being the official organ of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs,-Election of President—News in the Massage World —Spastic Paralysis, by P. W. Saunders, M.B., F.R.C.P. (continued from C.S.M.M.G. Journal, January 5th)—The Objective Study of Neurosis, by F. L. Golla, M. B. Oxon., F. R. C. P. Lond. (continued).
- Channels of Blessing—Editorial Notes and Notices
 —Vision and Joy—A Word for Jesus—The Revival
 in Scotland: Three of its Leaders—The Word Opened Day by Day—A Talk about the Bible— Dorcas—Our Letter from India—"The Friend of Israel"—Just Leave it—Gleanings—The Norris Memorial—Prayer Union—With Christin the School
- Hampstead Magazine.—Mike's Father, by Warwick Deeping Variations on a Personal Theme, by Landon Ronald—Who's Who; and Why—Bolts from the Blue—The Hermit of the Vatican—When Royalty Weds.
- Santa Lucia.—The Great Craters—The Great Impersonation, chapters 6-7, by E. Phillips Oppenheim (to be continued)—Blind Machine Operators—The Lifting Power of Fungus.
- Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mine of the world's interesting treasureheaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Suhscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.
- Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world day by day, keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. Subscription, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.
- The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).-Death of Sir Arthur Pearson-The Luck Penny (continued)-New Publications.
- Wanted, at once, a FOREMAN for the Mat Department. For particulars, apply to the SECRETARY, School for the Blind, Norwich.
- Two Trained Teachers. WANTED for interesting sphere of work amongst Blind Children in China and Ceylon. Splendid scope for Missionary -hearted Women. For particulars as to allowances, apply SECRETARY, Church of England Zenana Society, 27 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



GAMES FOR THE BLIND.—Draughts, Russian Fives, Chess, Chess and Draughts Outfit, Cheery Families, Bridge and Whist Cards, Patience Cards.



APPARATUS FOR THE BLIND.—1 Correspondence Tablets; 2 Braillette Board; 3 Pocket Postcard Writing-Frame; 4 Two-lined Pocket-guide for Giant Dots; 5 Four-lined Pocket Frame; 6 Two-lined interlining Pocket Guide; 7 Brass Foot Rule; 8 Tape Measure; 9 Spur-wheel; 10 Braille Watch; 11 Compasses.



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

THE prices of the following publications are subject to a discount of seventy-five per cent. for readers who are resident in the British Isles, and to a discount of fifty per cent. for residents in the British Colonies and Dependencies.

MUSIC

MOSIC			
Church—		PRIC	d.
5221 "Communion Sarvice in F flat" by Cruickshapk" (Vertical Score)			7
Organ-			
5323 "Three Organ Pieces," by Frank Bridge (Bar by Bar)		. 2	0
			0
		. 2	
5326 "Overture to William Tell," by Rossini (arranged by Lemare) (Bar by Bar)		, 2	1
Piano—			
			7
5328 "Original Compositions," by Brahms, Op. 119 (Bar by Bar): "Intermezzo in B minor," "Int	ermezzo		
			0
5329 "Polish Dance in E flat minor," by Scharwenka, Op. 3 (Bar by Bar)			0
		. 2	5
5331 "Spanish Serenade," by Wolstenholme (National Institute for the Blind Edition) (Bar by	Bar)	2	0
Songs—			
5332 "Serenade," by Bantock (D flat: Compass, A, to F')		. 2	0
5333 "Whatever is—is Best," by Löhr (G: Compass, D to E')		. 2	0
5334 "Irish Slumber Song," by Pascal (C: Compass, C to E')		. 2	0
		. 2	
5336 "In May," "Thy Lovely Face" and "Beauteous Cradle," by Schumann (Compass, D to G	ř')	. 2	7
5337 "Coal-Black Mammy" (Song Fox-Trot), by St. Helier (G: Compass, D to E')		. 2	0
Four-Part Song—			
5338 "Spanish Serenade" (S.A.T.B.), by Elgar (Open and Vertical Scores)		3	7
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5338 "Spanish Serenade" (S.A.I.B.), by E.	gar (Opei	and vertical Scores)	3 /
RECENT ADDITIONS TO	THE NA	TIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND	
	Marc	h, 1922	
FICTION.		MISCELLANEOUS.	
Adair, C. Gabriel's Garden	4 vols.	Anson George. Voyage Round the World,	
	6 vols.	1740-4 8	vols.
Benson, E. F. Thorley Weir	5 vols.	Barbellion, W. N. P. Enjoying Life 3	
Buchan, John, Half-hearted	5 vols.	Batty, E. Poems	
Chesterton, G. K. The Man Who Was		Besant, A. Inner Government of the	
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THE ECONOMICS OF INDUSTRY.—V



HEN the writing of these articles was first contemplated we felt that the subject of the remuneration which ought to be given in return for the labour of, the Blind was a much simpler one than it now appears. We dealt to some extent in the second article of the series with this problem; but present-day conditions and the force of

circumstances have all conspired to impress us very much more seriously with the gravity of the problem than could have been thought possible a year ago.

We must quote to some extent from the article already referred to in order that by a process of amplification we may make clearer some of the important issues involved. Let it be distinctly understood, however, that we are unequivocally opposed to any system which in effect would depreciate the value of the ordinary workshop for the Blind by making its industrial functions a secondary consideration, and exalting out of all proportion the relief side of the work. Relief and augmentation of wages are admitted necessities, but they are not the primary functions of those who undertake to conduct an industrial establishment for the Blind. Work and the labour value resulting from such work are the dominant considerations, and all other issues are secondary and of minor importance to the main duties and enterprises of the legitimate trading concern. Keeping this viewpoint ever before us, it will be easy to discuss the vexed question of the augmentation of wages and other subsidiary problems of interest without detracting in the least degree from the usefulness of those basic principles which we have endeavoured to state in this series of articles.

The problem of the minimum wage is not at present a subject of practical politics. The prevailing trade difficulties and almost abnormal industrial depressions succeeding each other with almost unheard of rapidity, have so depleted the resources of the voluntary organisations as to render anything in the nature of a stabilised minimum wage a practical impossibility, even if it can be said to be a desirable condition.

Those of us who have in season and out of season advocated the principle of a minimum income feel reluctant now to do so, because of the absence of any guarantee on the part of those who are recipients that they will in return give the maximum output of which they are capable. By this suggestion we do not mean to imply that an undue toll should be made upon the physique or mentality of the worker, but it is reasonable to suggest that if the voluntary organisations are required to strain their resources almost to breaking point in order to give a standard of life to those workers for whom they are responsible, it is not unreasonable to ask that the highest possible standard of efficiency should be contributed by such workers and that their output should be on the ascending and not on the declining scale, as is only too frequently happening at present. Those who deliberately advocate a reduction of output whilst striving for an increase in wages or the equivalent thereof, are either acting in ignorance of economic law or they are foolishly leading the worker to embarrass the very organisations whose existence provides their only security. In the December number of The Beacon we dealt at some length with this problem, and postulated as a first proposition that "we are convinced that the output of the blind worker is to-day unnecessarily low owing to the fact that a very large number of persons are placed in workshops who possess neither real productive capacity nor aptitude for the job assigned to them. Not only is productivity registered at a low level, but the cost of supervision is high, while the trade turnover is proportionately small, and the profits therefore microscopical."

Moving from this point to our second proposition, we suggest that any arrangement by which it is proposed to augment wages must be capable of fulfilling the following conditions. It must be able to combine efficiency with production, offer an incentive to the development of earning power, and be equitable in its general incidence. All the sliding scales in the country of which we have any knowledge (and we think we are familiar with them all) grossly violate these salient conditions and, in our judgment therefore, are based upon an entire misconception of fundamental principles by which we should of necessity be guided. The doctrine of "the rent of ability" finds no recognition in these scales; the converse of this principle is true, for men and women engaged thereunder are rewarded not for the work they do, but in consideration of the labour they fail to perform. Thus the system fails to supply an incentive, and the really efficient worker is actually and really penalised because he is more of an artisan and less of a charitable subject than the rest. By all means be as philanthropic as possible to the really inefficient; but it is absolutely essential to keep charity and business rigidly separated, and all reasonable care should be exercised to prevent the development of those tendencies which are apt to crush initiative in order to give a status to those whose productivity possesses no appreciable commercial value.

Our Institutions sustain the greatest losses and incur the heaviest liabilities by employment of slow and inefficient workers, and this vital consideration ought not to be overlooked when the augmentation of wages problem is under review.

Finally, we have to postulate rather reluctantly, because we have been driven to the conclusion, that as a matter both of political and economic necessity it is better for all concerned that a flat rate of augmentation should be generally recognised. Such a rate should, of course, be reasonable in amount, and bear a relative value to the assessment of the disability of blindness. This arrangement would stimulate and encourage initiative, and provide a system of remuneration at once equitable in its incidence and essentially reasonable in its application, while, at the same time, it would contain the general curative treatment which knowledge and experience have recently shown us to be of such prime importance.

We are aware that a scheme of augmentation has recently been approved by the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, but in the judgment of the writer this scheme is hardly more satisfactory than some of those already in operation. It proposes, in fact, to violate the same fundamental law which has characterised other efforts, viz., to say to the efficient workman, because you are able to earn substantial wages we will reduce your augmentation grant in proportion as your labour value is increased. This is a contravention of all commercial usage, for in practical business a man is never penalised because he is more efficient than the rest. A reward is given for the ability he possesses, but this idea is altogether violated in the scheme before us.

We have no desire unduly to embarrass those who are struggling to find a solution for this problem, but we are confident that the accepted process is a wrong one, and that if you are to make a compensation grant, which in effect is an assessment of disability, then it is wrong to penalise the man who by sheer physical and mental exertion, strives to triumph over his handicap by attaining such a standard of speed and proficiency as brings him nearer to the plane of an ordinary workman.

It may be argued that a flat rate of compensation would involve hardship as far as the low wage earner is concerned; but it is at once obvious that if an assessment of disability provides an amount which is not equal to meeting the man's ordinary responsibilities, when added to his earning power, then recourse must be had not to the funds of an industrial undertaking, but to resources ordinarily outside the purview of a trading concern. It may be necessary to invoke the aid of some other charitable fund or of the Poor Law, but it certainly is not the business of an industrial undertaking to associate business and charity; if it does then all experience tells us at once that such an Institution is destined to become less of an industrial organisation and more of a charitable agency, and no one should desire this less than the blind worker.



THE After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind report that during the month of February 71 fresh cases came under their care (46 men and 25 women). Gifts to the number of 32 were provided at a cost of £59 8s. Fifty-two visits were paid. The amount expended in fees was £200 15s. 6d., and in relief £486 12s. 5d.



WE learn that Mr. Ernest Whitfield, the blind violinist, has met with a warm reception in Vienna, where at a concert given to a very highly critical audience, he was recalled again and again. Musical circles in Vienna are taking special interest in his performances, because he has submitted to their hearing and trained judgment for the first time works of modern English composers, including violin sonatas by Arnold Bax and John Ireland.

BLIND COMPOSERS' RECITALS

ASERIES of recitals up and down the country, devoted to the works of living blind composers, was inaugurated on Wednesday, March 20th, at the Central Hall, Liverpool, with the following programme:-

PART I

- 1 Organ (Written for the opening of the Grand
 Organ in the Town Hall, Johannesburg)
 Mr. WM. WOLSTENHOLME
 forte "Marche Héroïque in E flat'
- of orte "Ten Poetic Fancies" Horace F, Watting
 (No. 2, "The Firefly," No. 4, "Rustic Revel,"
 No. 10, "Humoresque")
 Mr. SINCLAIR LOGAN 2 Pianoforte
- 3 Vocal "Song of the Genie" Granville Bantock
- Miss DOROTHY REID (a) "Echo" Wm. Wolstenholme
 (b) "In terra pax" Sinclair Logan
 Mr. SINCLAIR LOGAN
 (a) "Rondino in D flat" 4 Vocal
- (b) "Toccata in D minor" T. G. Osborn
 Mr. WM. WOLSTENHOLME
 "Moods of a Windows Organ
- Mr. WM. WOLSTENHOLME
 "Moods of a Mind"
 1, "Repose," 2, "Merriment"
 Mr. SINCLAIR LOGAN Pianoforte
 - Vocal
 "Love, from thy power" (Samson and Delilah)
 Saint Saint-Säens Miss DOROTHY REID

Short Interval, during which Mr. EDWARD WATSON, of the National Institute for the Blind, addressed the audience

- 8 Pianoforte
 (a) e" Spanish Serenade" Wm. Wolstenholme
 (b) e" Rondo alla Tarentella in A flat"

 Affrad Wrigley Alfred Wrigley
- Mr. Wm. Wolstenholme 9 Vocal { (a) e" Early one morning" } Sinclair Logan Mr. SINCLAIR LOGAN
- "Improvization" Wm. Wolstenholme 10 Organ
- Mr. Wm. WOLSTENHOLME "Where Corals lie" Sir Edward Elgar Miss DOROTHY REID 11 Vocal
- 12 Pianoforte $\begin{cases} (a) & \text{"" Zingaresca"} & LI.\\ (b) & \text{"" Venetian Boat Song"} \\ (c) & \text{"" Caprice in C"} \end{cases}$ Llewellyn Williams

 Sinclair Logan Mr. SINCLAIR LOGAN
- (a) " Minuet Antique in D flat" Hora e F. Watling
 (b) "Bohemesque in G" Wm. Wolstenholme Mr. WM. WOLSTENHOLME

The pieces marked with an asterisk are published in the National Institute Edition of the works of British Blind Composers



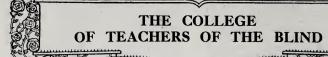
Recent Additions to the Massage Library

Action of Muscles, by W. Colin Mackenzie, F.R.C.S., in four volumes. First Aid to the Injured, by Col. Sir James Cantlie,

K.B.E., in two volumes.

POCKET EDITIONS.

Etiology of Rickets, by G. Bruton Sweet, M.B., and Value of Freedom and Exercise after Operation, by R.P. Rowlands, F.R.C.S., in one volume. Treatment of Fractures, by S. Alwyn Smith.





HE annual meeting of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind on Saturday afternoon, March 18th, and the fourteenth annual report of the Committee was submitted to the Council.

Many facts of interest to all concerned in the education and

welfare of the blind are embodied in this The 1021 examination was held in May last, at Odsal House School for the Blind, Bradford, and four candidates were successful in obtaining the College certificate. This makes a total of 170 men and women who have obtained the certificate of the College, 25 of these being blind; while, in addition, 37 honorary certificates have been granted. The examiners for the 1022 examination are Miss J. I. Falconer, Miss M. M. R. Garaway. F.C.T.B., Mr. A. P. Pearson, B.A., F.C.T.B., Mr. J. M. Ritchie, M.A., F.C.T.B., and Mr. W. M. Stone, F.E.I.S., F.C.T.B. The next examination will be held at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W.3, on the 30th and 31st May, 1922.

At the same school a summer course for Craft Teachers has been arranged to take place from the 23rd to 26th May, 1922. Candidates will be charged a fee of 10s. and a certificate of attendance will be issued. The course of study will be as

follows:-

 Instruction; underlying principles and the importance of the teacher's work.

- 2. Class management, discipline, etc.
- 3. Schemes of work.
- Commercial aspects of Industrial training. Discussions and demonstrations, and visits to Institutions for the Blind in the Metropolis will be included in the course.

Another point of interest is that the Committee, at the invitation of the Ministry of Health, have drafted a scheme for the certification of home teachers of the blind. In brief, the Committee recommends that home teachers should be required to pass, within two years of their appointment, an examination in Braille, Moon, Manual Alphabet for the deafblind; professional knowledge of conditions as to education, legislation, etc., in the blind world.

The Committee express their profound sorrow at the tragic death of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., who had been a member of the Council for several years.

The much-regretted resignation of the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. H. J. Wilson, on account of advancing age and ill-health, is reported. Mr. Wilson has, however, kindly consented to remain a member of the Committee, the advantages of his wide experience of the blind thus being retained. Miss M. M. R. Garaway, F.C.T.B., who has had wide and practical experience in the education of the blind and has at all times given her services whole-heartedly to the College, has been appointed in his place.

Following on the unanimous adoption of the report, the following appointments

were made:-

Honorary Officers:
Mr. G. F. Mowatt, J.P., Hon. Treasurer; Sir
Washington Ranger, Hon. Solicitor; Mr. Henry
Stainsby, Hon. Registrar; Messrs. Drury, Thurgood
& Co., Hon. Auditors.

New members of the Committee:

Colonel Ewen A. Cameron, Secretary, Gardner's Trust for the Blind; Mr. R. C. Phillips, Headmaster, Henshaw's Institution for the Blind, Manchester; Miss Phyllis Monk, M.A., Headmistress, Chorley Wood College for Blind Girls, Herts.

Two new Fellows were appointed, Mr. G. F. Mowatt, J.P., and Mr. W. H. Tate, J.P., whose respective careers summarized from the full record read at the meeting are outlined below:—

G. F. Mowatt, J.P. Elected 18th March, 1922

The career of Mr. G. F. Mowatt, J.P. afforts a remarkable example of how a blind man, nothwithstanding his handicap, can most competently fulfil many public duties of local and national importance. Not only has Mr. Mowatt rendered inestimable and continuous services to the cause of the blind, but, in addition, has found time to devote much of his energies to the local interests of Brighton and the County of Sussex.

Son of the Rt. Hon. Sir Francis Mowatt, G.C.B., I.S.O., Mr. Mowatt suffered from defective sight at an early age, and was educated at Worcester College for the Blind from 1887 to 1892, and later on specialised under a private tutor.

Mr. Mowatt commenced his public career in 1902 by serving on the Local Board of Guardians and the District Council and on various Committees of the Council. He is also a Member of the Mid-Sussex Water Board, Chairman of the School Board Managers, Chairman of the Old-Age Pensions Committee of the District of Sussex and Chairman of East Grinstead Divisional Council.

When war broke out he was appointed recruiting officer of the Special Reserve; he also acted as Chairman of the Tribunal Committee, Food Control and Coal Control Committees and of a Local War Distress Committee.

Mr. Mowatt is now Hon. Secretary and Treasurer to the Governors of Worcester College for the Blind, and a Governor to the Royal Normal College for the Blind, and has been largely responsible for the opening, by the National Institute for the Blind, of Chorley Wood College for Blind Girls. He is Hon. Treasurer and a member of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind, and is Chairman of its Standing Committee. He is a member of the Committee of the National Library for the Blind and the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association for the Blind.

The blind at Brighton and vicinity have specially benefited by his efforts, Mr. Mowatt being Chairman of the Barclay Home and School for Blind Girls in that city—with its London Extension, the Bar-

clay Workshops — a member of the Brighton Blind Relief and Visiting Society and a constant helper of the late Miss Moon in her pioneer work at Brighton of printing and publishing books in Moon.

Mr. Mowatt's thorough knowledge of the Blind has received public and governmental recognition by frequent requests made to him to sit on various central committees dealing with the welfare of the blind. Mr. Mowatt is now a member of the Royal Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness, the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, Ministry of Health, and the Advisory Committee on the Blind of the London County Council.

Mr. Mowatt takes a keen interest in sport, of the good influence of which he is a most enthusiastic believer. He is President of the Mid-Sussex Cricket and Football League, and has for many years pulled an oar for the Worcester College Old Boys and other rowing clubs, and has many victories as a member of winning "fours" to his credit. From 1892 to 1898 he hunted regularly with the South Downs Foxhounds.

Mr. Mowatt has twice been asked to stand for Parliament, but has declined, as he feels that his present sphere of work is more generally useful to the public.

W. H. Tate, J.P. Elected 18th March, 1922

Mr. Tate's interest in the education of the blind dates back forty years, when the School for the Blind in Bradford was established. From that time to the present day he has taken a keen interest in the work of the School, and has spent much valuable time and money in making education and training as pleasant and natural as possible. He has also been the means of sending a number of suitable pupils to the Colleges for the Blind at Norwood and Worcester. As a member of the Committee of the Royal Eye and Ear Hospital, Bradford, every case of blindness (whether of a child or adult) has been referred to him, and he has considered the possibility of some kind of education or training.

In connection with public meetings and conferences he has taken the deepest interest in the educational side of work for the blind, and has contributed in no small

degree to the educational improvements of

the past forty years.

For many years Mr. Tate has been a personal teacher of Braille and Moon types for the Blind, and has introduced ingenious methods of encouraging the study and use of these systems, both amongst young blind persons and also amongst adults.

Mr. Tate was instrumental in securing the provision of books for the blind at the

Bradford Free Library.

In addition to much collective teaching of the blind, he was peculiarly successful in dealing with individual cases in which other handicaps, such as paralysis, deafness, etc., accompanied blindness.

In the matter of music Mr. Tate has rendered distinguished service on educational lines. For nearly forty years he has been honorary choirmaster of the choir of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind, and in addition to weekly rehearsals has spent much time in personally instructing learners, soloists, etc. many years he has conducted an evening class weekly for instruction in Braille music.

Apart from direct educational work, Mr. Tate has been, and is still, closely identified with the general welfare of the blind. He is Chairman of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind, a co-opted member of the Committee of the Bradford Council School, an active member of the Committee of the Bradford Royal Eye and Ear Hospital, a Justice of the Peace, one of the most prominent members of the Northern Counties Association for the Blind, and a member of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, Ministry of Health. He is generally recognised as one of the best authorities on work for the blind in the North of England. Some time ago he spent a whole period of six months in preparing the register of the blind of Bradford, investigating each case himself. That work resulted in a substantial improvement in the condition of the blind community.

At the present time Mr. Tate holds a weekly meeting of the home teachers of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind, and has accomplished much in improving the qualifications of these teachers.

NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

E. W. AUSTIN MEMORIAL.

Reading Competition

T is hoped to hold the third meeting of the E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition at the National Library on a Saturday during May, the date to be announced as soon as possible.

Unseen passages will again be read, and prizes awarded for fluency and ease

of diction as in the past.

Intending competitors should send in their names to the Secretary, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.I, before the end of April, in order that detailed arrangements for the Competition may be made

It is intended to divide the competitors

into two classes:-

A. Those who learnt Braille type before the age of 16.

B. Those who learnt Braille type after

the age of 16. The 1921 Class "B" winner to

be eligible only for Class "A" this

It is further proposed to inaugurate a contest for Juveniles under the age of 15, not more than 2 competitors being eligible from each school.

Competitors when sending in their names should state in which class they

are entering.

Miss K. M. Green, as first prize winner in 1921, will serve on the Committee for one year.

The Committee consists of:-

The Rt. Hon. Lord Shaw of Dunferm-

Stuart Johnson, Esq. Miss D. A. Pain.

W. H. Dixson, Esq., M.A.

E. Le Breton Martin, Esq.

H. Royston, Esq.

Miss O. I. Prince, Secretary.



EASTER CARDS, with Braille or Moon messages, can be obtained at the National Institute for the Blind, from 4d. upwards.

PRESENTS FOR THE PRINCESS

Gifts from Blind Workers

A DEPUTATION of five St. Dunstaners attended at Buckingham Palace on February 20th bearing their wedding gift to Princess Mary. Of these two blinded one-armed men were received by Her Royal Highness, who graciously accepted the workbasket and grey bordered rug—veritable symbol of the "Victory over Blindness" achieved by more than 1,700 British soldiers during the last seven years.



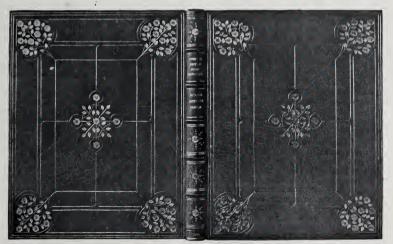
The blind workers of the Bristol Royal Blind Asylum Workshops sent a present of some knitted articles to Princess Mary. In her reply, the Lady-in-Waiting to the Princess wrote: "The Princess is greatly touched by your kind thought of her and much values your gift."

Pupils at the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, manufactured a dainty white opera-cloak of knitted wool with lace insertion, a silk jumper, and a hearth-rug of artistic design. An autograph letter of thanks was received from Her Royal Highness.

The Victoria Branch of the London scarf, whilst a woollen scarf was sent by the Percy Street (London Knitting Industries) Branch. These scarves were made at the request of the Princess, and the letter of thanks ran as follows:—

"The Lady in Waiting to the Princess Mary is desired to express to the Employees of the London Association for the Blind, the warmest thanks of Her Royal Highness for the Wedding Gift which they have sent her, which she much appreciates.

"The Princess is greatly touched by their kind thought of her, and she will always value their gift very much indeed."



Volume of the National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers, as presented by the Council and Staff of the National Institute for the Blind to H.R.H. Princess Mary on the occasion of her marriage to Viscount Lascelles, K.G., D.S.O., on February 28th, 1922

(From a design by Miss E. A. Stainsby, A.R.C.A., daughter of Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General, National Institute for the Blind)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND STAFF DINNER

KENDIN Z

N 10 N w ar L.

N Thursday, 23rd February, 1922, the Staff Dinner of the National Institute for the Blind was held at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, London, W.

Mr. J. H. Lee, Supervisor of Branches, occupied the Chair.

Mr. Lee, in opening the proceedings, said it was a great

privilege that had been bestowed upon him by the Committee who had arranged this function, in suggesting that he should take the Chair. He knew that it gladdened the hearts both of the Secretary-General and himself to find so many of the Staff present. He realised how well they could enjoy themselves upon such occasions and knew that the present would be no exception to the rule.

The Chairman then proposed the health

of H.M. the King.

Continuing, Mr. Lee paid a warm tribute to the Chief Accountant for the work he had done in organising the function, stating that "we were indebted almost entirely to our genial Mr. Bailey for the happy inspiration which suggested this gathering."

The Chairman also added that "we were met to-night for another important purpose, namely, to do honour to our Chief of Staff, Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General. I have been reminded today that it is within a few days of fortytwo years since he became associated actively with work for the Blind, and there is no man's name more widely honoured in the blind world than that of our Secretary-General." (Applause.) "I do not want to cast even the merest shadow across our gathering to-night, so I am not going to make even a passing reference to the sad and depressing events which

have happened during the past year, but

those who have intimately shared with the Secretary-General the anxieties and strain of recent months have desired some special opportunity, such as this, when we might in a united and concerted sort of way tell him to his face and in the presence of each other, what we think about him. We want to tell him how very much we esteem and respect him. We want to tell him of our personal regard and unwavering loyalty, and thank him for all those innumerable, often unremembered and far too easily forgotten acts of kindness, sympathy and patience which he has constantly shown towards us." (Applause.) "One other thing I know you would like me to say-that we are delighted and honoured to have Mrs. Stainsby with us this evening." plause.)

Then followed a delightful entertainment, recitals being given by Mr. J. J. Delmarge, and songs by Messrs. Wilden Knight and T. Osborne, Miss M. Wray

and others.

The second toast of the evening was proposed by Mr. Ben Purse, Superintendent, After-Care Department:—"The National Institute for the Blind and the

Secretary-General.'

Mr. Purse on rising said: "Mr. Chairman, Mr. and Mrs. Stainsby, colleagues all: I am very nervous to-night; not because of any sense of unwillingness to propose a toast of this description but because I would have been glad that this matter had been placed in other and abler It has been my delight for a considerable number of years to have had the closest acquaintance with our Secretary-General. I have had many opportunities of discussing with him questions upon which we have held very divergent views. Always he has been a gentleman -(hear, hear)-Tennyson's gentleman; the man

" Who bore without abuse

"The grand old name of gentleman."

"It is good for each and every one of us that upon an occasion such as this we should meet to compare notes." (Hear, hear). "Other times and other seasons have brought the stress of difficulties, yet we have just had to go smiling on, and the Chief Executive Officer of the magnificent Organisation, under whose auspices we meet to-night, has most frequently and uncomplainingly had to bear the burden and heat of the day. It is good that we should be able to assure him of our loyalty, our affection and our confidence." (Hear, hear). "And this is the first public occasion which has presented itself, of many lost opportunities. I hope that it will be the beginning of better days, and that in the future we shall not forget to do honour to those men and women who, in times of exceeding difficulty, have kept the flag flying." (Hear, hear.) "But, Sir, in these times I know that there are many people—our friends the critics—who tell us that they could manage things much better than we do, but the value of such criticism is negatived when we confront them with what has been achieved. . . . Ah, well, the subject matter of the toast to-night does not engender any acrimonious spirit. We are met here to do honour to our Chief-a man distinguished in the blind world for his knowledge and experience, and one who can have no rival." (Hear, hear.) "I have no desire unduly to protract these utterances; I am here merely to ask you to join in wishing long life, health and prosperity to our guests."

Rising to respond, Mr. Stainsby said: "Mr. Lee, Mr. Purse, ladies and gentlemen. I am to-night feeling quite out of place in attempting to address you in the position in which I am placed, and I feel almost unable to respond. I cannot tell you how deeply I appreciate the more than kind words of Mr. Lee and Mr. Purse, and I say again that I feel this occasion of the recognition of my small services in the past very deeply.

"I have been for forty-two years working in a very humble capacity in the cause of the blind—(hear, hear)—and in saying this I have been struck by the fact that the

perfect number seven has played an important part in certain epochs of my life. At the age of 14 (7 x 2) I began to specialise in my work; at the age of 21 (7 x 3) I entered blind work as a man one day old; 7 x 4 make 28, it was 28 years that I worked at the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, first as an Assistant School Master and finally as Chief Superintendent and Secretary; 7 x 5 are 35, that was the age at which I was appointed Chief Secretary of the Birmingham Institution; 7 x 6 are 42, the age when, after 21 years' service, I had a similar appreciation shown me as the one you are according me to-night; 7 x 7 are 49-the age at which I was appointed Secretary-General of the National Institute for the Blind; 7 x 8 are 56; it was when I reached that age that we were hard at work starting St. Dunstan's, and getting ready for that terrible war; 7 x 9 are 63, my age on Saturday next. I think you will agree with me that these figures are extremely wonderful.

"It is a good habit occasionally to review the past years as George Herbert suggests we should review each day. You remember his quaint lines:

""Sum up at night what thou hast done by day,
And in the morning what thou hast to do.
Dress and undress thy soul,
Mark the decay and growth of it,
If with thy watch that too be down,
Then wind up both."

It is therefore a good plan to take a survey of life, and in doing this I have to look back forty-two years and study the conditions of the Blind.

"Things were at a very low ebb when I entered the Birmingham Institution. There were very few bool's to read; indeed, the only Braille reading book in that school was the Bible. I was sorry to find that, because, though no one reverences the Word of God more than I do, I found that such use of the Bible as a school book detracted from its value. There were some books in Moon type and some in Lucas' type, which was then dying a natural death.

Our pay was very small, and my salary—and I thought it was a very big one—was £25 per annum with board and lodging. I thought I was a wealthy man!

Our hours were long—I had only two hours off each day. I do not complain, for I think it was a fine training for any man. The apparatus was poor and naturally the results were poor, but great changes have taken place in forty-two years. We have seen several important Acts of Parliament passed with regard to education, namely, the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893; the Education Act, 1902, Part II.; the Education Act, 1918; and the Blind Persons Act, 1920. Some of us in this room, not forgetting Mr. Purse, have taken some part in trying to bring about these reforms. We have taken part in International Conferences, served on various Committees, have helped to call public attention to the noble and deserving cause of those who are handicapped by the loss of sight. We have seen many changes take place-improved methods and processes; for instance, embossing presses running fifteen times more speedily than in former days, and better methods of illustrating. New industries have arisen; in fact, in a variety of ways the cause of the Blind has greatly improved. It is today by no means what it should be; indeed, it is doubtful whether we shall ever reach perfection, but on taking a retrospect of the years gone by we can say that something definite has been accomplished.

"During this time I regret to record the passing away of some great nien: Dr. Armitage, the Founder of this Institute; Mr. Anthony Buckle and Mr. Munby, both of York; Sir Francis Campbell; Mr. Pine and our own late President, Sir Arthur Pearson. I have seen these giants pass away, and when we think of them it makes one wonder whose turn will come

next.

"When I joined the N.I.B.—as we always call it—it was quite a small society. The staff numbered 54; if we look at our last report we see that the staff now numbers 857, of whom 323 are blind. That is a cause for profound thankfulness. I have to some extent had the great privilege of helping to bring about these results, but I feel that this share in the work is not due to me, but to my splendid colleagues. I said the same thing when I left Birmingham to come to London, and

I say to-day that I am proud to work with you all. What I most appreciate is loyalty and a deep interest in one's work; we cannot possibly succeed unless we are interested in what we are doing. Mr. Chairman, I feel to-night that it is this interest, permeating the whole staff, which places our Institute in the forefront of societies for the blind throughout the world.

"The Chairman has already alluded to the part my dear wife has taken in my work, and I can only say that if it had not been for her help and her loving care, I could not have done what I have done.

"I must not keep you longer, but I felt you would like me just to look back on what has been accomplished during that long period of years, and in doing so I thank God and take courage."

Later in the evening Mr. Williams proposed and Miss Finlay seconded a Vote of Thanks to the Chairman.

A very enjoyable evening terminated with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFICATED BLIND MASSEURS.

T HE Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs, under the presidency of Major-General Sir Robert Jones, K.B.E., C.B., F.R.C.S., has a membership of 168, of whom the majority are men blinded in the war. The primary object of the Association is to further the professional interests of qualified blind masseurs and masseuses by organising various schemes to increase the scope of their usefulness. and thus help them to become independent. It is the earnest desire of the Association to leave no stone unturned to bring to the notice of the medical profession and the general public the fact that qualified masseurs and masseuses can be obtained at a moment's notice, by letter or telephone, from the Secretary of the A.C.B.M., 224, Great Portland Street, W.1. (Telephone 2544.) The majority of the members are established in clinics of their own, equipped with the necessary apparatus for the treatment of patients by massage and medical electricity, and are engaged in private practice in all parts of London, Greater London, and the Provinces.





HE Inventions and Research Committee of the National Institute for the Blind have for some time had under consideration the question of standardising the marking of playing cards for use by the blind. As with all matters of this sort, there has been a great deal of controversy about the subject. A number of people

favour the marking on the back of the card; others like in on the front; some think it should be on the top, and others at the bottom, while, in addition, there are varieties of opinion as to the Braille characters which should be used to denote particular cards and suits. Committee have been impressed by the importance of establishing one system as a definite standard for two reasons: firstly, because Braille playing cards can be sold at a cheaper price when only one standard of marking is used, on account of the fact that the embossing can be done by machinery instead of by hand. and secondly, because the universal system will make it possible for any blind people who happen to meet each other to play together. No matter what system is used, there are bound to be those who dislike it, and the Committee are, therefore, aware that directly this announcement is made and the standard cards come to be issued, a certain amount of criticism will arise. They have, however, taken great pains to seek the advice of a large number of representative blind people on the matter and have, after exhaustive enquiries, decided upon a system which they believe has the greatest number of advantages and the fewest disadvantages.

I will describe the system which has been adopted without delay, and discuss what we consider to be its merits afterwards. All the Brailling is on the front, that is the picture side of the cards. The signs are placed in the left hand top and right hand bottom corners of each card, so that which ever way the card is picked up the Braille can be read in the left hand top corner. Each card is denoted by two Braille characters. one signifying the name of the card, that is, Ace, King, two, three, etc., the other announcing the suit. The sign denoting the name of the card is on top and that for the suit immediately below it. The following signs are used for the name of cards: -Braille A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, for the cards Ace to nine-no figure sign is used, for this, of course, is unnecessary—O for ten, J for Jack, O for Queen, and K for King. In some previous systems the signs AI or the letter T have been used to denote ten. We have substituted O because we consider that AJ is unnecessary, two signs are being used to convey one idea to the brain of the blind man when one will do, and the objection to T is that when the cards begin to get old a number of players are apt, if they are hurried, to confuse it with Q for Queen. been chosen for this sign because in ordinary letterpress the same sign is used for nought, and it, therefore, is more suggestive of ten than any other letter that is left to choose from. Furthermore, it is in shape of such a nature that it cannot easily be confused with any other sign that is used.

The suits are denoted by S for Spades, K for Hearts, D for Diamonds and X K for Clubs. We should expect to find H for Hearts and C for Clubs, but K has been substituted in the former case quite arbitrarily, because experience has shown that it is an advantage to have the suit

signs as different as possible and H is sometimes confused with D when the player is in a hurry. X has been chosen for Clubs because the D that is made use of to represent Diamonds is sometimes confused with C for Clubs when the cards are old. Again X is suggestive of Clubs, because it is made up, so to speak, of two C's, one on top of the other.

The expert Braillist may say that it is quite unnecessary to take so much trouble to make the system fool proof. will be quite right when he is considering his own skill; but the Committee took into consideration the large number of blind people who are not expert Braillists, but who, nevertheless, frequently enjoy a game of cards. Evidence obtained from many of these supports the statements made above as to the possibility of confusion arising between similar signs. It will be noted that with the exception of three signs, namely, O for ten, K for Hearts, and X for Clubs, the signs used to denote cards are so obvious that a beginner who has the very barest knowledge of Braille should be able to start playing at once without having to tax his memory to any great extent. This we consider to be a great advantage, because we know that a number of people have delayed learning to use Braille cards on account of a quite unjustifiable fear that the system is difficult.

As I have mentioned, there are some people who will at once say that they prefer the cards marked on the back; so it may be of interest to mention the reasons why we decided to mark them on the front. One is that we consider it to be very important that blind folk should appear as normal as possible when they are playing cards, and, indeed, when they are entering in any way into the games and amusements of sighted people. The fact that a blind man behaves more or less normally under such conditions makes his sighted companions much less embarrassed than they would otherwise be, and gives him a feeling that he is not constantly calling attention to his handicap by having to lay the cards on the table or on his lap to feel Another reason is that if the cards are laid on the table or held in

the hand and if the markings are on the back, it is almost impossible for even the fairest sighted players not to notice the dots which stand out in a good light and throw a distinctive shadow. We do not suggest that those who play with us desire to take advantage of the fact that we cannot see; but it is obviously distracting to the sighted player to have to be constantly on his guard to keep his eyes averted from the blind person's cards. Lastly, though this only applies to a very few Bridge players who are so expert that they play in clubs where the most orthodox procedure is observed, it is never considered quite proper for a player to hold his cards under the table. and this he is almost obliged to do if the cards are marked on the back and he wants to avoid displaying the Braille sign to his companions. The majority of blind people who use these cards hold them in the right hand in the form of a fan. The Braille is felt with the left thumb, which very quickly becomes accustomed to distinguishing the various signs without delay. If a blind person will take thirteen cards in his right hand, and holding them in a fan will pass his left hand over the outer circumference of the arc thus created, he will find that he can quickly pick out any card, separating them from each other between his fingers and thumb and at the same time feeling the Braille with the thumb. Usually suits are placed in a definite order. For instance, Spades on the left, Hearts next, Diamonds next, and Clubs on the right, so that, should the player desire to find a small Diamond to follow his partner's lead he will bring his left hand immediately to a position near the right side of the fan, where he will expect to find such a card. Some who are not quite so experienced place the suits between the fingers of the right hand. For instance, Hearts may be held between the thumb and first, Spades between the first and second, Diamonds between the second and third, and Clubs between the third and little fingers. This is certainly an advantage from the point of view of quick play, but it has the disadvantage that when a particular suit is played out this fact is obvious to any sighted person, although here again we do not suggest that the sighted person necessarily wants to take advantage of this informa-

tion.

The National Institute for the Blind is now supplying cards of the type mentioned above as standard, and they are obtainable at a cost of 1s. 6d. per pack (postage extra). The best quality cards are used, and the printing dies, which have been manufactured specially for the purpose, produce a scientifically perfect dot, which is not only easy to feel, but wears much better than a hand-made dot. The reason for this is that unless the hand stylus is pushed into the pit in an exact perpendicular position and immediately over the centre of the pit a perfect dot cannot be made, and one side of the paper that forms the dot will be strained to a greater extent than the other, with the result that frequently the dot is split.

These cards are supplied in cardboard cases holding one pack. The Institute is still prepared to Braille cards of other types and systems for those who are unable to adopt the standard system, and for these 2s. per pack (postage extra) will be charged. The Institute makes no profit out of the sale of cards, whether of the standard or other kinds, which are sold slightly below the bare cost; indeed, it will be noted that the price for the standard cards with the Braille embossed on them is the same as the price which a sighted player has to pay for cards of

similar quality in a shop.

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O WING to pressure of work in connection with his new executive duties at the National Institute for the Blind, Mr. G. F. Mowatt has been obliged to relinquish his chairmanship of the Barclay Home and School for Blind and Partially Sighted Girls, Wellington Road, Brighton. Major-General Sir Reginald Buckland, K.C.M.G., C.B., has been appointed chairman in his stead.

Mr. H. J. Wagg has been obliged to resign the Hon. Secretaryship of the Home owing to the amalgamation of the Barclay Workshops with the "Eyes to the Blind" Society, which will entail heavier duties for him in town. His place is being taken by Mrs. Geoffrey Colbourne.

TUITION OF BLIND CHILDREN

T HE following letter relative to the proposed limitation by the Board of Education of expenditure on the tuition of blind children in certified schools appeared in the "Times" on the 16th ultimo:—

15th March, 1922.

Sir.—My Council desire to call attention to circulars 1245 and 1246 recently issued by the Board of Education limiting the expenditure on blind children under tuition in certified schools during 1922-23 to that of 1921-22. In other words, no fresh cases may be provided for unless they are to replace existing It is also darkly hinted that further restrictions may follow. No such regulations, so far as we know, have been issued in connection with the education of sighted children. The education of the blind is thus placed on a lower plane than that of the sighted, although the former obviously stand in greater need of it.

A very pertinent question arises out of the issue of these circulars, viz.:—by what powers conferred upon them have Government Departments the right to abrogate an Act of Parliament? The Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, makes the education of blind children compulsory. This Act has never been repealed and yet the Board of Education are setting it aside.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY STAINSBY,
Secretary-General.
National Institute for the Blind.

S OME slight alterations have been effected in the programme of lectures arranged by the College of Teachers of the Blind to be held at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3, from May 23rd to 26th. The lecture on "Schemes of Work in Industrial Courses" announced for May 24th will be given by Miss M. M. R. Garaway, chairman of the Executive Committee of the College, and the lecture on "Commercial Aspects of Industrial Training" on May 26th will be given by Mr. Ben Purse, Superintendent of the After-Care Department, National Institute for the Blind.

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THE BLIND AND EDUCATION

To the Editor of The Beacon.

S IR,—I am glad that the subject of "The Blind and Education" has come up for discussion in your valuable

iournal.

Although it does not behove us to be dogmatic in the matter it does seem that some blind people would gain materially from contact with their fellows in schools for the sighted, and it surely ought to be possible, after he has learnt the use of his peculiar apparatus, for a clever blind boy to be trained for a scholarship at Eton or Uppingham. Mr. Mowatt would doubtless be interested to learn that neither Mr. Sanderson Furniss nor Miss Robinson, who both distinguished themselves at Oxford, were ever in blind schools in their lives. After all, the sightless have to live among the sighted sooner or later, and in the case of those who go to the Universities, it is well that they should not be too suddenly faced with the sense of their peculiar difficulties. It is unfortunate that a blind boy, who has done well in the outdoor games of his special school, should find out for the first time, on his arrival at the University that he can no longer shine in this form of prowess .-Yours, etc.,

"APPIUS CLAUDIUS."

To the Editor of The Beacon.

Sir,—With regard to a correspondence which is now being carried on in your columns as to the Education of the Blind with or apart from their sighted fellows, it may be of interest to your readers to learn that Mr. H. G. Oke received his education at the Royal Academy of Music in the ordinary way. Up till now he is, I believe, the one sightless Associate of I believe, the one age that Institution.—Yours, etc., W. T. H.

To the Editor of The Beacon.

Sir,—I was much interested in Mr. Swift's letter, which appeared in the February issue, in which he raises the question of the education of the blind along with the sighted. My own view is that there is much to be said on both sides, but I think the experiment would be worth trying. I am not in a position to say how far it would work during childhood, but I am quite convinced that capable blind students would benefit greatly by finishing their education at a school or university for the sighted, as we know many do. I am strongly of opinion that in my own case much of my ability to teach music to sighted pupils is due to the fact that I was for six years a student of the Royal Academy of Music, and I have ever since always advocated sending promising blind music-students to some such college. It would tend to broaden the outlook of the blind student, and also educate the sighted ones as to what the blind can do and how they do it, for it is surprising how little is known on this subject even by capable musicians.

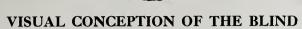
> Yours, etc., HUBERT G. OKE, A.R.A.M.

WE learn through the Church Family Newspaper that the Church Missionary Society has succeeded in securing passages to England for ten boys from the Blind School at Foochow. This insti-tution, which was inaugurated more than twenty-one years ago by Mrs. Wilkinson, provides a number of blind Chinese children with a thorough education.

These members of the brass band of the Foochow Blind School will take part in the "Africa and the East" Exhibition, to be held from May 17 to June 15, at the Royal Agricultural Hall. They will play Chinese and European music in the Chinese streets, and will give a realistic touch to this corner of the Exhibition. How the school was started is a fascinating story of faith and perseverance which will be related at the Exhibition by Mrs. Wilkinson.

At the close of the Exhibition, the blind boys are to tour the country, and, as they are able to speak English, they will relate to their audience some of the results of the C.M.S. work in China.

We may add that this Exhibition is to be held on a very large scale, and the help of 10,000 workers has been solicited.



PART II

A Free Translation From the French



E have said that sight provides a comprehensive impression of objects, whilst that supplied by the sense of touch is often vague and indeterminate. And yet—Providence has endowed the blind with obvious compensations. Man and the Universe are by no means entirely material. We would even go so

far as to say that the "immaterial" (as represented by the faculties which we possess) predominates. To each of us is given a mentality-a soul, a spirit-or what you care to name Man's inner self. This inner self is revealed in thought, in word, in deed-in countless and devious ways. It is not our intention to hold forth on the psychological aspect of the case, and we must therefore content ourselves by remarking that, as regards this inner self, we believe that the blind man acquires pronounced superiority over "his sighted brother. It is a truism to say that sight, when it embraces matter, is to a great extent subjugated by that matter; often a superficial judgment is formed because sight permits itself to be influenced by material impressions. Conversely, the blind man is concerned in testing the inner value or personality of the person with whom he is brought into contact. Also, the knowledge of a person's mental attributes will frequently enable him to form a shrewd conjecture as to his physical appearance. In this he is aided by the sense of hearing. Having contracted the habit of observing the minutest details, such as the slightest inflection of voice, and trained his memory to the utmost pitch—the blind man is enabled to form a true opinion of the persons whom he meets. Unhampered by physical considerations, his judgment is as a rule less superficial than that of the sighted man. Free from outside distraction, accustomed to logical deduction, he is able to form clear and reasonable deductions. And so, when speaking of persons and of things, the blind man can truly say that he *sees* them.

The deaf man forms his judgment by means of his eyes; he obtains a superficial impression of a person's mentality from his appearance. The result is often incomplete, and he becomes bitter and pessimistic in his outlook on humanity. The blind man, exercising those faculties enumerated above, added to a degree of intuition which grows with experience, views his neighbour with unprejudiced optimism.

From the above account we infer that blindness does not in itself constitute a sufficient cause of unhappiness. It is a handicap, a hindrance, an irksome shackle lessening the scope of activity. It is a bar to the fruition of legitimate aspiration: it frequently constitutes moral and intellectual bondage. But we maintain that blindness does not constitute a definite cause of misery or that it must needs engender a feeling of perpetual disinheritance. Above and beyond the material things which change, and perish, to be re-born in new form and guise, lies the infinity of the soul, where physical vision is as naught.

We have written the above in the attempt to afford those interested some insight into the mentality of the blind, that they may endeavour to penetrate their darkness, holding aloft the lamp of understanding and sympathy. Let them, above all else, cast Pity to the winds, and consider the blind man as an equal in human society. Let them help him to realise the dignity of his personality, to acquire his small portion of happiness—to attain his place in the sun.

THE BLIND VOTER

T HE following suggestion for a voting-card for blind persons has been received by a correspondent, who writes as follows:—

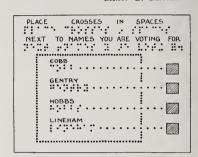
To the Editor of The Beacon.

Sir,—There is a matter which I should like to bring to your notice, and, as I think it is of interest to a large number of the blind, should like to get some other opinions through the columns of *The Reacon*.

I always feel somewhat ruffled when I go to register my vote at Parliamentary and other elections! Why should I, because I am blind, be obliged to allow the agent to register for me, and thus tell him for whom I am voting? This, surely, is a disability which should be removed. The N.I.B. is always very good to us, and is always ready to take trouble for us. I am, therefore, enclosing a suggestion for overcoming this difficulty in the hopes that something may be done.

This enclosed prepared form should be handed by the assistant to the blind voter, clipped with two little spring clips to the official voting paper, so as to bring the cut-out squares in the prepared form exactly over the squares in the voting paper in which the pencil crosses can then be made. The bottom and right-hand edges of the two forms should exactly coincide, so that the blind voter could see that he was really voting as he wished. Should the Braille names take more room than the sighted they could be connected by slanting lines to the proper squares. The top half of the prepared form might extend as far up as necessary. Of course the voter would remove the prepared form before dropping into the ballot box.—Yours, etc.,

CHAS. G. BROAN.



SUGGESTION FOR VOTING-CARD FOR THE BLIND
(The Shaded portions show the cut-out squares).

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(Continued from page 2 of cover)

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THEORETICAL.

A History of Music in England (8 vols.), E. Walker.

* Stereotyped books (presented by the N.I.B.).

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the March Numbers

- Progress.—Molière, the Great French Dramatist— Relativity: Time, Space and Matter—"The Inner Vision" (Poem)—Royal Bridal Cakes—"How to Push the Post Office"—Garden Notes (March)— Matters of the Moment—Our Prize Competition— A Dickens Memory—The Question-Box—Chess— Our Home Page—Advertisement.
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- Massage Journal, being the official organ of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs.— Official Notices—Massage Library—News in the Massage World—The Objective Study of Neurosis, by F. L. Golla, M.B. Oxon., F.R. C. P. Lond. (continued)—An Address on Hypnosis and Suggestion, by William Brown, M.A., M.D. Oxon., D.Sc., M.R. C.P. Lond.

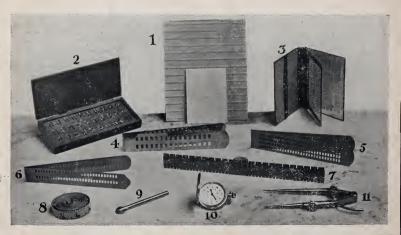
- Channels of Blessing,—Editorial Notes and Notices—Vision and Joy—A Word for Jesus—The Revival in Scotland: Three of its Leaders—The Word Opened Day by Day—A Talk about the Bible—Dorcas—Our Letter from India—"The Friend of Israel"—Just Leave it—Gleanings—The Norris Memorial—Prayer Union—With Christ in the School of Prayer.
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- The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type). About Royal Weddings—The Luck Penny (continued)— Note to Readers—Some Japanese Customs—New Publications.
- Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mine of the world's interesting treasure-heaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.
- Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world day by day, keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. Subscription, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.
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A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE CONTROL INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

THE prices of the following publications are subject to a discount of seventy-five per cent. for readers who are resident in the British Isles, and to a discount of fifty per cent. for residents in the British Colonies and Dependencies.

MUSIC			
Church—		PRIC	d.
5355 "Holy Spirit, Come, O Come" (Whitsun Anthem), by Martin (Vertical Score)		2	
5356 "Eye Hath Not Seen" (Whitsun Anthem) (Bass Solo and Chorus), by Foster (Vertical Score)		2	0
Organ—			
5357 "Prelude in C," by Bairstow (Bar by Bar)		2	0
PIANO—			
5358 T.C.L. Studies and Pieces, Preparatory Division (Bar by Bar)		3	11
5359 Nos. 23 and 24 of "Forty-eight Preludes and Fugues," Part 1, by Bach (Bar by Bar)		3	5
5360 "Sonata No. 16," by Beethoven, Op. 31, No. 1 (Macpherson's Edition) (Bar by Bar)			11
5361 "From the Country-side": 1, "In the Meadows"; 2, "A nong the Poppies"; 3, "At the Fa	ir,''		
by Coates (Bar by Bar)			7
5362 "The Garden of Allah" (Incidental Music from the Play), by Landon Ronald (Bar by Bar)			1
5363 "Moods of a Mind," Book 2, by Spanner (National Institute for the Blind Edition) (Bar by Bar			0
5364 "The Merry Mariner" and "Gondola Song" (Nos. 3 and 4 of "Eight Holiday Sketches"),	by		
Thompson (Bar by Bar)		2	
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Songs—			
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5367 "Arm, arm, ye brave" (Recit. and Air from "Judas Maccabæus"), by Handel (C: Comp.	ass,		
B, to E')			0
5368 "There are Fairies at the Bottom of our Garden," by Lehmann (D flat: Compass, C to E')		2	
5369 "Emotion" and "A Red, Red Rose," by Schumann (Compass, D to E')	•••	2	
5370 "Is Life a Boon?" (from "The Yeomen of the Guard"), by Sullivan (D flat: Compass, F to A')	2	0

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE	E NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
	April, 1922
FICTION.	MISCELLANEOUS.
Albanesi, Madam. When Michael comes to Town 5	
Ayres, Ruby M. Woman Hater 2 Boothby, G. Lost Endeavour 2	vols. (1866-1918.)
Benson, E. F. Across the Stream 5 Burnett, Mrs. F. H. Little Saint Elizabeth and other Stories	vols. (E. W. Austin Memorial Fund). Besant, A. Theosophy and the New Psy-
Caine, Hall. The Christian 10 Crockett, S. R. The Red Axe 5	vols. Crawley, J. Everyday Essays 2 vols.
De la Pasture, Mrs. Catherine of Calais 6 De la Pasture, Mrs. Erica 5	vols. Euripides. Hippolytus, Trans. Gilbert Mur- vols. ray. Iphigenia in Tauris, trans. Gil-
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Hutten, Baroness von. Sharrow 6 v Leacock, S. Nonsense Novels 2 v	vols. Gilbert, W. S. Fifty Bab Ballads 2 vols. vols. Glasier, J. S. William Morris and early
Oppenheim, E. P. Great Impersonation 4 Page, G. Follow After 5 Page, G. The Rhodesian 5	vols. Housman 1. Angels and Ministers Three
Sutcliffe, Halliwell. Mistress Barbara Cunliffe 6 Wylie, I. A. R. Towards Morning 4	vols. Kipling, Rudyard. Letters of Travel, vols. 1892-1913 3 vols.
Yorke, Curtis, Only Betty 4	

(continued on page 16)

Low, S. Governance of England

Young, F. E. Mills. Shadow of the Past 4 vols.

THE BEACON A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE

INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

VOL. VI.-No. 65.

MAY, 1922.

PRICE 3D.

THE ECONOMICS OF INDUSTRY.—VI

"You wrong'd yourself to write in such a case."



—Julius Cæsar. T seems that we have incurred the wrath of a correspondent by reason of the fact that we have of late seen fit to change our opinions on certain aspects of problems associated with the care of the blind. Presumably our offence is all the more grievous because we have had the temerity to make a full, free and frank confession of our

errors in judgment, and to assign reasons for the faith that is in us.

Sorry as we are to have all unwittingly hurt the tender susceptibilities of an old colleague, we should consider ourselves much more in fault if, after having discovered our errors in economic belief, we should prefer to remain silent and allow our mistakes to go unrefuted and uncorrected. We make no secret of the fact that our views have been modified in recent times, and our ultra socialist correspondent would also be well advised to examine his faith in the light of prevailing conditions.

We no longer believe that every workman is an arch-angel, and every employer an arch villain. If this is the iconoclasm of which we are alleged to be guilty, according to the conception of a certain narrow cult, then we are content to remain

among the excommunicate.

Those readers who have been sufficiently interested to peruse these articles will probably agree that we have at least relied, and

that entirely, upon a process of deductive reasoning for the advocacy of the views and opinions formulated.

In bringing our notes to a conclusion, we desire merely to lay emphasis upon one or two matters which appear to be some-There are still people in what urgent. charge of important undertakings where numbers of sightless folk are employed. who do not think, apparently, that the employed have the right to combine for any purpose where the interests of their industry are involved. We think this is a mistake and calculated in the main only to exaggerate or magnify grievances that could so easily be adjusted by a process of free and frank discussion between those employers who are affected and duly qualified representatives of the workers.

It is all very well to say, as is often urged, that such employers are ever willing to discuss matters of difference with their own workpeople, but the dread of victimisation, with all the horrors of unemployment, is a very natural and genuine fear, which is so rarely apparent or understood by those who hold the "whip hand." We do not intend to employ the last phrase in any objectionable sense, but merely to indicate that the symbol of authority is best exercised when those endowed with power are willing and ready to recognise that there are common and inalienable human rights, which distinguish free men from bond slaves.

In this country, the right to combine for the protection of one's material well-being

is no longer based upon the consent or the goodwill merely of an employer; it is a statutory right which has been hardly won, and is now quite properly jealously

safeguarded and cherished.

We are sometimes amazed to discover how glaringly inconsistent some of these people are. We find them, for example, meeting under the auspices of Superinten-dents' Associations and kindred bodies that are virtually employers' federations. discussing matters intimately associated with the lives of the workers, and yet, ipso facto, repudiating the right of the workman to voice his own needs and prefer his grievances in a legitimate way. are reminded of the dictum, that-

> "Evil is wrought by want of thought, As well as want of heart."

It may be that in the past needless irritation has been caused by the methods of agitation employed, but this is surely no justification for the withholding of common rights that are now conceded to be a

heritage of the people.

Our reference to the existence of the "Superintendents' Association and other kindred bodies" must not be understood to have been conceived in any spirit of hostility or antagonism. To be guilty of such an attitude would be precisely to destroy the very foundation of the premise upon which our plea is based, namely, the frank recognition of mutual rights. Without such a recognition there can be no real peace among industrial workers, progress is hindered, and an utterly false atmosphere maintained. In the industrial sphere, with which we are concerned in these articles, a spirit of goodwill and toleration is all-important, for how else are we going to meet the dangers and difficulties that are looming so largely before us? If there can be said to be anything which has a tendency to remove the bitterness of controversy, it is the knowledge that one's opponents are honourable men, and that they are meaning to do the right thing.

Steadily, but without the slightest doubt, industry is moving to much higher Yes, we are planes of organisation. afraid, much more rapidly than many of us are inclined to believe. The functions of the worker are being remodelled and reshaped, in order to meet the exigencies of a keen, competitive world. The revolutions in industry that are fast approaching will leave the labour of the blind at a much greater discount than is at present revealed, if we are not exceedingly mind-It will take all the tact, all the brains, and all the co-operative effort of which we are capable to maintain a place in the arena of production. It is inevitable. we think, that some of the present industries must go, and it can only be by exercising the closest vigilance and the most painstaking research that we shall be able to hold on.

With the knowledge of these conditions before us, it is more than ever necessary that the blind workers of the country should be wisely educated in industrial matters, and properly led. Whatever other facilities they may be induced to claim, they will have to see to it that the piece-work demands they make are only such as will admit of the industrial institutions offering their manufactures at competitive prices, for if our trading agencies are forced out of the markets by reason of extravagant and impossible claims. then there can be nothing before those who are to succeed us but an enforced dependence upon doles. Thus, we shall merely change the form of mediævalism, from whose traditions and limitations we are only just emerging, by a substitution of national for parochial relief. As Milton puts it, in another connection, "New presbyter is but old priest writ large."

This viewpoint, however, is being made known and appreciated by the better type of workman; of this we are sure, and the more we are prepared to substitute the processes of reason for the arbitrament of force, the easier will it be in the future to effect readjustments such as will guarantee a position of usefulness to the blind man or woman in the work-a-day world of

present and future society.

BEN PURSE.

WE HAVE much pleasure in recording that at the London County Council election on March 2nd, Captain Ian Fraser, Chairman of the Care and After-Care Committees, St. Dunstan's, and candidate in the Municipal Reform interest for the Borough of North St. Pancras, was returned at the head of the poll with a vote of 6.082, a majority of over 2,000.

EDUCATION OF BLIND AND DEAF **CHILDREN**

N the course of a debate on the education policy of the Government, which took place in the House of Commons on March 28th, Lieut.-Colonel John Ward asked the President of the Board of Education whether he was aware that the operation of Circular 1245 of the Board of Education. which limited their expendi-

ture on the blind and deaf in 1922-23 to that of the current year, will prevent the attendance of some such children at suitable schools: that the Manchester Education Committee has already decided, in the cases of blind or deaf children waiting for admission to suitable schools, that such children can only be sent as those at present in schools leave at the age of 16; and whether, because of the danger of individual blind or deaf children suffering the loss of their educational training, which is their only hope in life, he will withdraw the Circular referred to? Mr. Fisher replied: Circular 1245, which was issued in January, 1922, conveyed a warning, not a decision, as to possible restrictions in 1922-23 on expenditure on special schools, not for the blind and deaf only, whose education necessarily demands an exceptional measure of individual attention, but for all types of defective children. I am fully alive to the needs of blind and deaf children, and hope that by the exercise of greater economy over the whole field sufficient provision for their education may still be made.

Colonel Wedgwood recently asked the President of the Board of Education whether local authorities were advised by Circular 1245 of the Board of Education that, in order that the cost of educating blind or deaf children in 1922-23 might not exceed that incurred in 1921-22, contracts should not be made by them for

sending such children to suitable schools: whether certain local authorities had decided not to make such contracts in respect of children above the number of those attending such schools during 1921-22; and would he explain, in view of the provisions of the Act of 1893, why the Board had issued a circular which pointed out to local authorities a method of evading that Act, and encouraged them to disregard their duties under the Act.

Mr. Fisher.—I have every hope that the provision made by Parliament for the purpose will enable me to make arrangements to avoid any reduction in the provision hitherto made for the education of blind and deaf children.



The Board of Education issued two Circulars, 1245 and 1246, and in order that our readers may be able to judge of the nature of each, we quote them verbatim. We need only add that local education authorities and the managers of voluntary special schools have interpreted these Circulars as decisions that money spent on the education of the blind in 1022-23 must not exceed that of IQ2I-22.

Circular to Local Education Authorities

Circular 1245. 27th January, 1922. Expenditure upon Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic Children.

In view of the present financial position and the high cost of Special Schools, the Board think it desirable to warn Local Education Authorities that they may have to restrict their total expenditure on making provision for blind, deaf, defective and epileptic children in 1922-23 to the amount incurred in 1921-22. The Board are issuing this warning in connexion with this particular Special Service as they understand that it is the custom for Authorities to make contracts some time in advance for sending children to Special Schools. This warning, however, is given without prejudice, and must not be taken as implying that even further reductions may not be found necessary or that similar reductions may not be asked for in connexion with other Special Services.

(Sgd.) L. A. SELBY-BIGGE.

Board of Education, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Circular to Managers of Voluntary Special Schools

Circular 1246. 27th January, 1922. Grants to Voluntary Special Schools.

In view of the present financial position and the high cost of Special Schools, the Board anticipate that in the case of grants due in respect of the year 1922-23, and till further notice, they will not be able to pay grant on an average attendance in excess of that for 1921-22. This warning only applies, of course, to the grant which is paid direct by the Board to the Managers. It is sent at this stage to the Managers in order that they may have time to consider what modifications, if any, they may find it convenient to make in their arrangements for the year beginning on 1st April, 1922.

As regards children sent to Voluntary Special Schools by Local Education Authorities, the position is set out in Circular 1245, of which a copy is enclosed. The number of children to be sent to any Voluntary Special School by each Authority remains, as hitherto, a matter for arrangement between the In-

stitution and the Authority.

(Sgd.) L. A. SELBY-BIGGE.
Board of Education,
Whitehall, S.W.I.

MISS WINIFRED HOLT, founder of the "Phare de France" (Lighthouse of France) has been created a Knight of the Légion d'Honneur.

OBITUARY NOTICES

WE regret to announce the death of the Rev. Herbert Burrows Southwell, Canon Residentiary of Worcester since 1912. Canon Southwell was in charge of a small village church at Whittington, three miles outside Worcester. He was found lying unconscious in a field by parishioners, who were cycling to the morning service, and died without regaining consciousness. He had officiated at an early celebration, and appeared then to be in good health.

Canon Southwell, who was 66 years of age, had had long experience in training men for the ministry. From Charterhouse he went up to Pembroke, Oxford, where he obtained honours in classics and theology, and was Denyer and Johnson University scholar in 1881. He rowed in the Pembroke eight. Soon after his ordination he became domestic chaplain to the late Bishop Lightfoot at Auckland Castle. Four years later he became Principal of Lichfield Theological College, Bishop Maclagan adding a prebendal stall. In 1901 Bishop Jacob invited him to become principal of his hostel at Newcastle, with a canonry of the Cathedral, and he remained under Bishops Lloyd and Straton.

For many years Canon Southwell was a Governor of Worcester College for the Blind, and lately he was intimately associated with the National Institute for the Blind in raising funds for its activities in connection with Higher Education.

WE regret to announce the death on April 4th of Sir John Kirk, director of the Shaftesbury Society and Ragged School Union, who was associated with the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., in connection with Pearson's Fresh Air Fund.

nection with Pearson's Fresh Air Fund.

Sept.

CARLO DELCROIX, an Italian soldier, blinded in the war, who has given numer-

ous lectures in Rome and other cities, has now written a history of the war. The book is favourably commented up-

on by the Italian newspapers.



A moving Easter message from one of the war's blinded soldiers

"We who are blind cannot see the glory of the sunlit days, nor the pageant of the sunest. . . . There is much that we cannot see; there is one thing we will not see, if we can help it, and that is the gloomy side of our lives."



HESE words appear in the first chapter of that splendid book "Victory Over Blindness," in which the late Sir Arthur Pearson told the story of St. Dunstan's, and set forth the wonderful philosophy upon which was based the great uplifting movement in the blind world for which he was mainly responsible.

They answer, I think, the question which the Editor of the Sunday Express has put to me. "What is the Easter message of the blind to those who have eyes and yet see nothing but darkness in the world?"

This day, along, perhaps, with Christmas Day, stands out as a milestone set upon a hill in the road of life, and just as the traveller will pause on this high place and survey all that is good to look on in the country that is ranged around him, so I think we should stop for a moment and, casting aside our prejudices and worldly worries, concentrate our thoughts on the nobler characteristics of mankind.

If we search intelligently we shall find that the world is full of courage and of hope, and that the finer instincts of men and women are persistently forcing themselves to the surface. There is probably no section of the community in which this is to be more clearly seen than in the little army of nearly 2,000 men who lost their sight in the war. They are settled in their professional and industrial occupations all over the British Empire, and they are happy. I almost said they are happy in

spite of their misfortune, but I think I should be getting nearer to the truth if I were to state that they are happy on account of their misfortune and of the necessity which it has forced on them, the opportunities it has given them, of developing the best sides of their character.

True happiness does not arise from the things we see or hear, but comes from the things we do. It is connected more intimately with the actions and thoughts which arise from within than with those which come to us from outside through the medium of our senses. I can vouch for the fact that the real happiness of the vast majority of my comrades who lost their sight in the war arises out of the sheer joy of achievement.

Which of us does not know with what feeling of pride he or she triumphed over some unusual difficulty or setback? Blindness is just such a difficulty, and it is the very fact that it is at first regarded by the individual and is usually regarded by the public as the end of all things that makes its conquest so sweet. The message of the sightless men, then, is no new one; it is merely one interpretation of the Gospel to which our attention is drawn by the advent of such a day as Easter Sunday.

It is a demonstration of the eternal truth that there is something in every man and woman more powerful and more important than his or her physical capabilities. No matter whether we call it the will or the soul, it is there, and it is capable of overcoming all the difficulties of this life if it be given the chance of controlling our thoughts and actions.

I have always thought that the real good St. Dunstan's has done for our country, and other countries, too, is not to be found in the fact that it has taught many hundreds of men this greatest of all lessons,

important as this is.

It is rather the splendid example which it has given to the world—at a time when the world badly needed an ideal to work for-that difficulties are here to be overcome, and that there is no limit to the moral development which men can reach if they have but the opportunity and the determination to use it rightly.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following interesting and appreciative letter was received a short time ago by Mr. Henry Stainsby, the Secretary General of the National Institute for the Blind: -

> Canadian National Institute for the Blind. 142, College Street, Toronto, Ont.

My dear Mr. Stainsby,-

Will you permit me to congratulate the N.I.B. on the splendid progress made by the Institute in presenting diagrams, pictures, etc., in such a clear manner as to be very readily traced by the fingers

of the blind?

In my opinion the N.I.B. has now reached the premier position in diagramming of all publishing houses for the blind in the world. Formerly I found great difficulty in tracing out maps, and, in fact, any sort of diagram where involved lining was necessary, but the work done by the Institute from the illustrations in English Gothic Architecture down to the splendid pictures in A History of Everyday Things in England shows what can and should be done in this direction. When examining the illustrations in the last named work, I once more vividly visualised pictures which were familiar to me in my old sighted days. There was not an essential detail lacking. When a dotted diagram can be made thus clear, there is very little more to be demanded.

Sincerely congratulating you and your fellow-workers on this important branch of publishing work for the blind, and with best wishes for your continued progress and success, believe me to be,
Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) S. C. SWIFT,

Chief Librarian.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

THE Irish National Association for Blind Homeworkers is desirous of communicating with organisations or indi-viduals in other countries interested in this work. The object of this association is to further the interests of blind homeworkers by providing them with tools and materials at cost price, and of endeavouring, as far as possible, to find a market for their manufactured goods. In addition the Association has also undertaken the task of teaching the Braille system to blind persons free of charge.

CARDIFF INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND. On the occasion of her wedding, H.R.H. Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, graciously accepted the gift of a pair of black silk stockings made by a blind girl, Miss Gladys Williams, on a knitting machine.

MANCHESTER SOCIAL CLUB FOR THE BLIND.—The first year's work has been largely of an experimental nature. Social evenings, at which whist-drives, chess and draughts tournaments, etc., formed enjoyable features, were well attended. During the summer months enjoyable rambles were undertaken. A plot of recreation ground at Heaton Park has been allocated to the club, which now numbers 62 blind and 17 associate mem-It is hoped that the successful initiation of this club will induce other communities to follow in its footsteps.

HENSHAW'S INSTITUTION FOR BLIND.—An exhibition and sale of work was recently held in the Houldsworth Hall, Manchester, when the varied nature of the work taught at Henshaw's Institution was illustrated by brush-, basket-, mat- and mattress-makers, by chair-caners, upholsterers, boot-repairers and piano-tuners at work in the Hall, and enjoyable concerts were given at Two young boys frequent intervals. playing chess and others engaged with a box of dominoes showed remarkable skill in following the moves of the games. An interesting exhibit was that of the first typewriter ever invented— Hughes' Typograph. This was made by a former superintendent of Henshaw's Institutions in 1845, and was exhibited to Queen Victoria when she visited Knowslev in 1851. On the opening day of the exhibition Mr. W. G. Lecomber (chairman of the Board) described the work of the institution, and Mr. J. W. Sarjeant appealed for funds with which to re-equip and modernise their main organ, the cost of which was estimated at £1,150. He pointed out that the institution had turned out many fine blind musicians and that an up-todate organ was necessary for the effective training of the students. In appealing for a greater measure of public interest in the institution, and especially in the products of the workshops, Sir Edwin Stockton stated that with a population of about a million, there were less than 1,500 blind persons in Manchester and Salford.

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THE Pelman Institute is providing blind folk, free of charge, with a Braille edition of the lessons and sets of questions which comprise the Pelman Course of Mind and Memory Training. Braille copies of the course can be obtained at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8, Great Portland Street, London, W.1.

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THE third meeting of the E. W. Austin Memorial Reading Competition will be held on Saturday, May 27th, at the National Library for the Blind.

Professors Gilbert Murray and A. C. Bradley have kindly consented to judge those readers who qualify to compete in the finals, and Lord Frederic Spencer Hamilton will take the Chair and present the prizes to the successful candidates.

All particulars can be obtained from:

THE SECRETARY,

National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

THE BLIND AND EDUCATION

To the Editor of The Beacon.

S IR,—I have read with interest recent opinions re the education of the blind. The point which strikes one is this: not one, who has sent an opinion, happens ever to have been either a blind or a partially-blind girl, who has been educated herself. The real question at issue I take to be:—The higher education of blind girls on similar or improved lines, as the case may be, to that which exists for boys at Worcester.

May I speak from personal experience, as one who from girlhood craved for such a college as this, and who has repeatedly pointed out the need for it?

As a keen educationalist who has not only supervised but taught both blind and partially-blind boys and girls in all stations of life, I have studied the subject thoroughly, and considered every requirement which appeared essential for success in after life.

I have suffered from birth with defective vision. My education has been very varied. First I was at a preparatory day school for little ones for about a year, then at a public day school. Next I was taught privately at home. Before I was nine I went to a private boarding-school. At fifteen all my studies were stopped by my specialist's orders. Sometimes I sat a whole term unable to use my eyes, listening to my companions, but I was successful in retaining my place in class. Sometimes I spent weeks in a darkened room. At other times I travelled by my doctor's orders.

When I realised that I was partially blind, I determined to learn all I could in order to teach the blind. From a baby I was accustomed to blind people, for my mother's sister married a blind musician who had two blind brothers. I began "helping the blind" before I was six years old, and knew much about them.

Not wishing to specialise in music, but on lines of my own, I attended a Council Day School for the blind, and studied the whole school curriculum, while at home I learned other subjects privately. My object was to teach

children and to help anyone blind, of

any age.

I became quite blind, but learned everything that came my way: handicraft, sewing, and music. Some subjects I took together with sighted students, and liked doing so.

In order to gain further experience I worked for a time at an Institute for the

Blind, attending daily.

My second strong inclination was towards "Home Teaching." From a child I watched what was done by and for the blind, making my own improvements, devising my own new methods, experimenting on my blind uncle, and other blind people, adults and children.

Looking back, I say from experience that for the ordinary blind, or partially-blind girls or boys of educated and refined parents, in England, I should choose to send a boy to Worcester College, a girl to "The Cedars" for "higher education" without a second thought. I only wish the latter had existed when I needed it.

Certainly, in the past, the blind child has not been allowed sufficient intercourse with the sighted world, and not enough out-door life, sports, or interests. At "The Cedars" this need not be at all

the case.

I consider blind or partially-blind students, children or adults, require to be taught by blind and partially-blind, "specially trained" teachers, in order to achieve the best results. Supervision and oral instruction may come from sighted supervisors and lecturers, and for deportment a teacher must be fully sighted; but all tactile training is better and more quickly learnt from one handicapped in like manner.

Only in one case have I learned easily from a *sighted* teacher. He had three blind brothers, and through teaching them he learnt how to teach the blind.

Half the reason of "blank faces" at Blind Schools is due to learning from sighted teachers, who have too little sympathy, and not enough skill. This is a serious cause of grievance, the having "to teach your teacher what you have to learn," as I have been told.

The secret of the success of St. Dunstan's was that blind and partiallyblind experts taught the men. There were plenty of sighted friends around to help.

The "sighted point of view" is always difficult for blind or partially-blind persons to grasp, even when there was previously good eyesight. As one who has been quite blind and still is partially so, I maintain that each condition means a change in the "view point."

The more normal one can keep, or be trained to be, the broader the outlook, the better the results achieved. Commonsense is the best thing to bring to the subject, and this is often lacking in dealing with the blind. Let those who are handicapped have a voice, and be heard.

In exceptional cases try exceptional methods, using discretion. Then train the blind with the sighted. I do.

Yours, etc.,

M. WHITFORD. (Partially blind.)

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EMBOSSED LITERATURE POSTAL RATES

SEVERAL instances have been brought to our notice in which the concession in respect of the postage on Braille literature is being violated. In the interests of the blind community, it is desirable that the rules governing the posting of embossed literature

should be strictly observed.

The special rates refer to the posting of any kind of periodicals or books impressed with Braille or other special type for the use of the blind. Such periodicals or books, if sent by post at the special rates, (1) may not contain any communication either in writing or printing in ordinary type, except the title, date of publication, serial number, name and address of printers, price, table of contents, or any key for the use of the periodical or book; (2) must bear on the outside the inscription "Literature for the Blind"; and (3) must be posted either without a cover or in a cover open at both ends which can easily be removed for purposes of inspection.

M. COUÉ'S VISIT TO ST. DUNSTAN'S

N April 3rd, M. Emile Coué, the French auto-suggestion healer, visited The Bungalow, Regent's Park, to explain to the blinded soldiers of St. Dunstan's the theories on which his practice is based, and to illustrate them with some practical demonstrations.

Captain Ian Fraser, Chairman of St. Dunstan's, presided, and Lady (Arthur) Pearson, President of St. Dunstan's, and Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., Chairman of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind, were

amongst the audience.

To the sensitive spectator there was something pathetic in that listening band of sightless men, gathered together to hear the message of hope, brought across the sea to the sick and suffering. But in an admirable little speech, Captain Fraser reminded his blind comrades that, although some of them might have come there under a false impression, M. Coué, of course, made no claim to cure blindness, which was due to an organic, and not to a psychological cause. "Those who have difficulties to put up with like myself and most of you," observed Captain Fraser, "must not expect they could be overcome."

As a matter of fact, M. Coué's only reference to blindness was to record the cure of an English girl who had been blind in the left eye for twenty years. This girl, he said, was blind because she thought she was. When she was two years of age, her parents bandaged her eye for a year because it pained. During this time she forgot how to use the eye, and when the bandage was taken off she did not see.

M. Coué was asked to speak in English, and he succeeded in doing so very well, although he was considerably handicapped in eloquence and illustration. He made quite clear, however, the simple basis of his practice.

M. Coué is the first to iterate and reiterate that he is no worker of miracles. He merely teaches people to utilise a power inherent in human nature, by means of which, used properly, they can benefit their There is continual conflict between imagination and will, but if properly exerted, the former—which, in M. Coué's opinion, is man's first quality—always wins. Will should be kept under, while the imagination should be given free rein. The more you try to sleep the further sleep recedes, but forget that you cannot sleep and you sleep. Try to remember a name and you frequently cannot; but leave the mind blank and imagination supplies it. Again, when you believe you can do something, you can do it; when you believe you cannot, you cannot. According to the strength and concentration of the belief, so is the completeness of the We may add that there is, of course, no element of will in belief, for to admit a will to believe is to admit a negative factor; in other words, you more or less say, "I cannot believe, but I will do so." It is only by simple repetition of the idea of belief that the imagination can be brought finally and completely to true and unassailable belief.

Such, in barest outline, is apparently the basis of M. Coué's system and belief, and logically, it is perfectly sound. These facts have been known for hundreds of years, but the utilisation of them in healing and other ways has been more or less neglected, and it is the effort to arouse this dormant power of self-help in everyone which constitutes the true value of M. Coué's mission. In the writer's opinion, there is nothing antagonistic to human science or religious faith in his teaching. He who employs M. Coué's method simply utilises a power given to him by God which

he may not have heretofore recognised, or possibly may have misused, and by its means, rightly directed, assists or relieves the work of curative science.

" Auto-suggestion," said M. Coué, " is the best thing in the world, but at the same time the worst thing. When well employed it can work wonders, but if badly used it may produce disastrous results.'

M. Coué illustrated his theory by several demonstrations of the power of the imagination. Two or three blinded men went through the now familiar experiment of the locking and unlocking of the hand. The definite concentration of the mind on the fact that such-and-such a thing can or cannot be done naturally yielded a definite result-much to the bewilderment of one of the "patients"-the definiteness of the result depending, of course, on the depth of concentration attained, the experiment failing when the imaginary idea is not conceived with sufficient brilliance.

Several of the St. Dunstan's men, suffering from minor ailments, found their various pains relieved by M. Coué's treatment-just as, when racked by the fell pangs of toothache, we can momentarily and absolutely forget them by the force of some strong emotion or other influence which takes our imagination willy-nilly miles away from teeth. If we can conceive sufficiently strongly that the toothache is gone, it will go. The trouble is to conceive with that sufficient strength. But that requisite frame of mind once attained, we have mental chloroform for all ills.

The value of M. Coué's oft-repeated formulæ, "ça passe" and "day by day I grow better in every way," is that they swamp the imagination with the idea of their meaning, so that eventually there is no room for the idea, " ça ne passe pas" or "day by day I grow worse and worse."

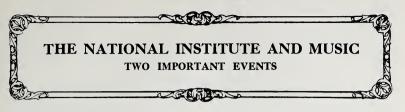
If you say "white, white, white" repeatedly all day as fast as you can, you won't have much time or space in your imagination to think of "black." However unthinkingly you say any word, the meaning it conveys will gradually take shape in the imagination, and finally occupy the imagination as a full-fledged idea. Further, if said aloud, the meaning of a word is naturally clearer and less liable to get befogged with other words which float in and out of the mind, because the action of moving the lips expends a certain amount of mental energy which otherwise would be wandering at leisure on the look-out, as it were, for something to snap up.

The blind men evidently much appreciated M. Coué's kindness in coming round to talk to them, and responded most heartily to the three cheers called for by the Chairman.

THE National Institute for the Blind copies in Braille-produced on the La Roue press-of "Le Petit Chose en Province," by Alphonse Daudet, in French, and the two books of Sallust's Roman History, "De Conjuratione Catilinæ Liber" and "De Bello Jugur-thino Liber" in Latin, edited, with introduction and notes, by W. W. Capes, Daudet's book is the first part of "Little What's-his-name," a charming and delicate autobiography, a blending of fact with fiction, in which the author, giving rein to his imagination, describes his first steps upon the world's stage. It is written in the limpid and fascinating style characteristic of Daudet, of whom another famous French writer, Emile Zola, once remarked:
"Kind Nature has placed him at that exquisite point where poetry ends and reality begins." Sallust's Roman History is, of course, known to everyone. as a Latin classic of primary importance, the only remaining books which have come down to us in entirety being the two mentioned above, accounts of the notorious conspiracy of Catiline and the Jugurthine War respectively. Both are valuable and interesting monographs.

"Le Petit Chose en Province" occupies eight volumes in Braille, and Sallust seven volumes. The price in both cases is 12s. per volume, less 75 per cent. discount for residents in the British Isles, and 50 per cent. discount for residents in the Colonies.

THE meeting on Esperanto for the Blind, which it was proposed to hold in connection with the Whitsuntide Esperanto Congress, has now been cancelled.



Special National Institute for the Blind Edition Concert at Liverpool



ITH the object of concentrating the attention of important provincial centres upon the efforts of the National Institute to secure the publication of and publicity for the works of British blind composers, a bold attempt has just been made, which has amply justified itself, with Liverpool as its centre. A

recital on a comprehensive scale was organised by Mr. Edward Watson, Manager of Music Department and Director of Publications, National Institute for the Blind, with the assistance of Messrs. Ryalls and Jones, the publishers of the National Institute Edition, and given in the Liverpool Central Hall on March 29th, when two blind composers, Mr. Wm. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., Oxon., and Mr. Sinclair Logan, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., appeared as the recitalists.

An audience of over 2,000 people filled the vast auditorium and represented an absolutely unique gathering of leading musicians, heads of some of the best local schools, with their staffs and pupils, members of musical societies, prominent citizens, etc., etc., not only of Liverpool and Birkenhead, but of the surrounding area of some 50 miles. The Hall itself is in the heart of the city and contains a remarkably fine organ by Messrs. Norman & Beard, while a fine Chappell grand pianoforte was most generously sent by Messrs. Rusworth & Dreaper. The Liverpool Press not only supported the scheme by preliminary announce-ment, but also reported the actual recital at considerable length and in terms of high praise, commenting not only upon its intrinsic excellence and on the splendid performances of the recitalists, but on the publication scheme itself as something altogether commendable.

Mr. Watson, who for many years was Music Master at the Liverpool School, briefly addressed the audience during the interval and explained to a highly interested and sympathetic gathering the objects and aims of the publications scheme. A collection was taken which practically covered the heavy expenses of the recital.

The programme was selected from the catalogue of the National Institute Edition, Mr. Wolstenholme being organist, pianist and accompanist in turn, while Mr. Sinclair Logan sang, played the pianoforte and accompanied a local singer of distinction — Miss Dorothy Reid, L.R.A.M.—in some difficult songs by Elgar, Bantock, and Saint Saëns. Mr. Wolstenholme improvised in his usual masterly manner on a couple of extremely contrasted themes supplied by two musicians in the audience, and received an ovation.

The Liverpool venture has been considered to be sufficiently successful to justify the development of the special recital idea in other important towns in due time. Thus it will be seen that the National Institute for the Blind is endeavouring to use every means of bringing the claims of blind musicians, whether as composers or performers, before the general public, and it is the obvious duty of our readers to supplement their efforts by introducing the edition to the notice of as many as are likely to be interested and of service to the cause. Local music dealers might be apprised of the edition, and orders placed with them, rather than sent direct

to the National Institute; while organists might be asked to include a work in their recital programmes, singers to look over the songs, and pianists the really excellent music for the piano which forms so large a section of the catalogue. If these recitals can be maintained as a more or less permanent feature of the National Institute for the Blind propaganda, an immense impetus will not only be given to the cause of blind musicians, but the varied activities of the National Institute will be brought before a wider public to the benefit of all concerned.

Visit of London Society of Organists

THIS important body, representing Metropolitan Section of the National Union of Organists Association, paid a visit to the National Institute for the Blind on Saturday afternoon, March 25th, when a special recital was given by Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., Organist and Director of Music, National Institute for the Blind on the Armitage Hall organ. Mr. Warrilow's programme was as under—

Allegro in D minor T. G. Osborn.
Prelude in A minor Sjögren.
Impression No. 1 Karg-Elert.
Andantino in G minor Franck.
Cantiléne in B minor H. F. Watling.
Marche Héroïque in E flat

Mr. Sinclair Logan, L.R.A.M., also contributed two songs of his own composition, "Early one Morning," and "In terra pax," and he was accompanied by Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus. Bac., who contributed, as pianoforte solos, Oke's "Aeroplane," and his own suite, "Moods of a Mind," with musicianship and effect.

Special interest centred in this recital, inasmuch as it was the inaugural recital of the West and North-West London Section of the Society of Organists, a sub-division of the Metropolitan area of which Mr. Edward Watson had been appointed Hon. Sec., and the occasion was welcomed as affording a splendid opportunity of emphasising the claims of blind musicians, whether as performers or composers, at a somewhat unique

gathering of London organists and their friends.

Dr. Warriner, the Secretary of the Metropolitan Society, in the course of an interesting speech, in which he paid a high tribute to the recitalist—a tribute which was warmly endorsed by all present—referred to an interesting discovery recently made, which demonstrated that certain brain tissue which controlled precise localisation (such as the place of notes on the manuals, positions of stops, etc.) had also been found in the tips of the fingers, thus making the idea of "the eye of the finger tip" something of a reality. Dr. Warriner animadverted upon the "stupid old systems of sight-reading (so called)," and claimed that the finger could be trained to do much of the work so frequently relegated to the already sufficiently taxed eye.

After an enjoyable social half-hour, over tea, Mr. Warrilow proceeded to deliver an interesting lecture entitled, "Music and the Aeroplane—the Evolution of Motion."

Both functions were extremely well attended by a representative body of musicians, professional and amateur, and Dr. Warriner concluded by proposing a hearty vote of thanks to all who had contributed to what he described as an event of quite exceptional interest.

THE After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind, report that during March 91 fresh cases came under their care (54 men and 37 women). Gifts to the number of 35 were provided at a cost of £85 14s. 2d. Fifty-six visits were paid. The amount expended in fees was £264 11s. The sum of £664 8s. 2d. was expended in relief, and £102 16s. 9d. in Branches Relief.

THE augmentation of wages of blind persons employed in workshops for the blind, as recommended by the Ministry of Health, is as follows: 15s. a week augmentation on earnings at trade or other standard rates up to 10s. a week, decreasing by 3d. in the shilling to a minimum of 5s. a week where the wages are 50s. a week or more.

THE ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE, NORWOOD, AND ITS FOUNDER

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HE Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, is this year celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its inception. The record of these fifty years is one which may well be recalled with feelings of pride and pleasure by those who are associated with the institution. As organists,

choirmasters and music-teachers, as pianoforte-tuners, school-teachers and correspondence clerks, no less than 600 expupils are at the present time "making good" in all parts of the kingdom. At the moment there are in training some 150 students, who receive a thorough artistic and intellectual education, side by side

with that of physical culture.

In recalling the history of the Royal Normal College our thoughts naturally turn to its founder. Born in 1834 in Franklin County, Tennessee, U.S.A., Born in 1834 in Francis Joseph Campbell became blind as the result of an accident which occurred before he had attained his fourth year. In an account of his life, recently published in the "Daily Telegraph," Mr. Robert Overton relates that one of the last things the child ever saw was the thrashing by her owner of the old slave woman who was his hired nurse. "The lasting horror with which this spectacle filled his little sensitive soul," says Mr. Overton, "was intensified a few years later, when he heard the sobbing of another slave nurse, who was attending him during a fever, thrashed for not cheerfully acquiescing in the sale and carrying off of her ten children. The boy became what the man remained—an Abolitionist.'

Soon after he had become blind the Campbell family fell on evil days, and were obliged to exchange their comfortable and luxurious home for a small mountain farmstead, where persistent and united effort alone enabled them to keep the wolf from the door. To shield their afflicted child, to prevent him participating in this struggle for existence, was the great aim of the tender-hearted parents. "Their other children might work—must work—to keep things together; but their

little sightless son—no.

"For him everything must be done, by him nothing. He begged to be allowed to help, pleaded to be entrusted with some little task for the domestic weal; but his father insisted on sparing him. If it came to that, he asked, what was there that a delicate little blind boy could do?

"The little blind boy showed him. In the farmer's absence he persuaded his mother to let him have an axe and lead him to the woodpile. When his father came home he found quite a large quantity of firewood all cut and stacked, ready for service. After that, the small firewood chopper was not only permitted to engage in all sorts of useful activities about the holding, but encouraged and instructed, for it was seen that work was far better for him than the pity that hitherto had forbidden it."

At ten years of age the boy was sent from home to a distant school for the blind in Nashville. Years afterwards he was appointed music teacher at the same school. While teaching others he applied himself so strenuously to the study of mathematics, Greek, Latin, and other subjects, that his health gave way, and he was obliged to give up all work for a period of three months, and to lead the simple life in the mountains. Mr. Overton describes how, recovering from this breakdown, the young man put his renewed strength to hard and early use.

"A school for the blind had been established in his native State, but pupils were lacking. To secure them (at the request of the authorities) he rode across

Tennessee from boundary to boundary, accompanied by mounted friends, picking up an eligible child here and another there, carrying them, strapped to his waist, as far as fifty miles on his pony, climbing mountains and swimming rivers, shirking no road because of its roughness.

"Conditions of travel in the States then were very different from present conditions, and this adventure was in some

measure heroic."

Mr. Campbell entered Harvard, married, and returned to Tennessee, where he settled down as musical director in a flourishing educational establishment. then became "suspected by a local vigilance committee, formed, on behalf of the slave-owning interest, to get rid of all opponents of the 'domestic institution,' and he was kept under observation, proof being soon forthcoming that he had actually been guilty of teaching a negro to read. The indignant Committee, representing the leading citizens, required an undertaking from him that he would never do such a thing again, that he would vote for the slave-owners' nominee in the pending Presidential election, and come out from the camp of the Abolitionists. His 'No' on all these points was emphatic and unhesitating, and was followed by the presentation of an ultimatum. He must either do as demanded or be hanged at the expiration of twenty-four hours. He knelt in prayer with his young wife, arranged his affairs, and waited for the hanging. And lynched he certainly would have been but for the action of a section of the community, who rebelled at the intention of stringing up a blind youth of twenty-two, even for so dark a deed as teaching a negro the alphabet. Their agitation saved his life, but nothing could save his means of livelihood, doomed to destruction by the edict that he was to be ostracised. His excommunication was so effectual that his classes were unattended, and none dared to befriend him. He had to pack up and go."

After leaving Tennessee the young couple went through some hard times.

"The wife fell ill; with her to care for the husband lived himself on 6d. a day. At Boston fortune was kinder to him. He became head of the musical department of the Perkins Institution there, and retained his position for eleven years. spite of a medical warning—in 1861—that his life depended on a year's holiday and a sea voyage, he held on, and kept going for another seven years. But then health and strength were again at so low an ebb that he was compelled to accept a twelve months' furlough, and, with his invalid wife and their son, proceeded to Europe in quest of recovery-and of something else: a knowledge of the best Old World institutions for the blind, in order that he might apply that knowledge to the elevation of similar institutions in the New World. He visited Leipsic, Berlin, and other cities, mastering every new system with which he came in contact. learned much, and all he learned confirmed his faith in the new principles that had long been taking shape in his own mind. He booked his passage home, via London, confirmed in his intention to attempt the founding of a Conservatorium of Music for the Blind in connection with one of the American universities, to be conducted on those principles.

"The conservatorium was established—but not in the contemplated affiliation, and not in the United States. It is in Upper

Norwood.

"On the very eve of sailing from London its founder met Dr. Armitage, of the British and Foreign Blind Association.

"The two found themselves to be in the closest sympathy as regarded their hopes and views on the subject that was nearest and dearest to the heart of each. The result of conference was co-operation and generous financial assistance on the part of Dr. Armitage. The American remained in England, touring the country with his colleague, arousing interest and collecting funds. With £3,000 the work of the college was started, at first in Paxton-terrace, nearer the Crystal Palace. Some months afterwards, Dr. Armitage still helping financially and in other ways, and the then Duke of Westminster, grandfather of the present duke, liberally contributing, the present magnificent site was purchased, and here ever since the higher and musical education of the blind has been carried on.

"By will and decree of Queen Victoria the former became the 'Royal' College On its founder and head a doctorhood of laws was conferred by Glasgow University. In 1909 the man who in 1854 was within a few hours of being hanged in Tennessee was knighted in London by King Edward VII. Five years later his earthly labours were ended." He passed away at the age of 80, after a life full of strenuous labour, and he left behind the Royal Normal College as a monument to his memory.

The board of governors of the Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood, are endeavouring to raise the sum of £75,000 as a permanent endowment fund for the college. The Clothworkers' Company have contributed £250, the Goldsmiths' Company £150, and the Pewterers' Company £5.

A HYMN FOR THE BLIND

By Dr. Henry Burton

CRD of the darkness and the light,
Whom none may see with open
face,
Thy groping children of the night
May sing Thy providence and grace.

What if Thy form we may not know— For sense sees not the soul of things— We touch Thy garment's hem, and lo! Our spirit finds its sight and wings.

We see the splendour of Thy train, With love inwoven, and with law; We feel the touch which soothes our pain,

And brings a silent, reverent awe.

Unbound we roam Thy broader skies; All realms are free to thought and prayer;

And deep within life's mysteries We trace Thy purpose everywhere.

O Will of God, supremely kind! Supremely wise in Yea and Nay! We yield our will to Thee, and find The dawning of Thy perfect day.

A NEW PIANOFORTE KEYBOARD

C EVERAL descriptions cfEmmanuel Moor's two-manual octavecoupler pianoforte have already appeared in the Press. The first opportunity given to the musical public of arriving at a just opinion of the merits of the invention was afforded by a recital given by Professor Donald Tovey, at the Æolian Hall, on January 9th. Professor Tovey prefaced his recital by a brief discourse on the new keyboard and the many possibilities it opens up. According to Musical Opinion, its advantages lie chiefly in the fact that it differs from the ordinary keyboard only in affording extra facilities; it is not an entirely different primal idea as was the case with the Janko keyboard. The lower row of keys can be played upon in the ordinary way by a player who has made no study of Mr. Moor's keyboard. Close above this manual is one stopping short an octave below the top note of the lower one. By a pedal attachment this upper manual can be coupled to the lower at will, rendering the performance of difficult octave passages a matter of supreme simplicity. Professor Tovey, in demonstrating this advantage, warned his hearers against the danger of playing octave passages as glibly as they could be played; composers often relied upon the necessary effort in octave playing for a good deal of the effects of the passage. Another point the lecturer made was that the coupling arrangement reproduced with exactness in the upper octave the touch employed in the lower.

"By the use of the second or upper manual, which is not separated from the first as in the case of the organ, jumps are greatly reduced in extent and tenths are easily played as thirds. In score playing the advantages are even greater than in the case of pianoforte music, pure and simple, and Professor Tovey expressed himself convinced of the great utility of Mr. Moor's invention from this point of view as well as in facilitating the execution of classical and modern pianoforte music.

"The pianoforte used at the lecturerecital was provided with another attackment, a bar carrying little elastic plates, each bearing a kind of plectrum, which can be lowered between the hammers and the strings. This imparts to the instrument a tone similar to that of a powerful harpischord, but lacking, it seems to us, the old-world delicacy of the harpischord itself.

"There can be little doubt that Mr. Moor's keyboard greatly adds to the resources of the pianoforte, and if it does not supersede the standard form we feel justified in predicting that it will be made in increasing numbers as its merits are appreciated. We understand that the patent rights have been acquired by the Æolian Co., who are now actively engaged in the construction of pianofortes equipped with this keyboard and devices."



A SPANISH MAGAZINE FOR THE BLIND

PARTICULARS are to hand of the work which is being undertaken to provide literature for the blind in Spain and Spanish South America. Under the auspices of the Old-Age Pensions and Savings Bank at Catalonia a printingpress for the blind was recently installed, whence important works on music, art, literature, science and history have already emanated. We now learn that a magazine entitled "The Spanish-American Braille Review " (Revista Braille Hispano-Americano) has been started. This magazine deals with Science and various professions for the blind; it also contains interesting articles on philology, education, art, music and literature, and devotes a portion of its columns to the news of the world.

The object of the editors is to supply a magazine which will contribute to the education and culture of Spanish-speaking blind people.

The rates of subscription are as follows:

In Spain: 5.50 ptas per annum; 3.25 ptas for 6 months.

Abroad: 6 ptas per annum; 3.75 ptas for 6 months.

All subscriptions and correspondence should be addressed to El Director de la Imprenta Braille de la Institucien Social de Anermales, D. Ramen Laminguez Sans, Calle Baja de San Pedre, 5, Barcelona. RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY
FOR THE BLIND

(continued from page 2 of cover)

Milton, John. Areopagitica: ed. J. W. Hale 2 vols.

Poore, Lady. Admiral's Wife in the Making, 1860-1903.

Rodd, Sir Rennell. Sir Walter Raleigh 4 vols.

Anon. Watching before the Blessed Sacra-

GRADE III

Lever, Charles. Tony Butler 7 vols.

ESPERANTO.

Sentis, H. Urso kaj Montoj 2 vols.



WE are asked to state that there has been unavoidable delay in fixing a date for the presentation of Miss Amelia Campbell's Jubilee Gift at the Royal Normal College. The presentation will probably take place towards the close of the summer term, and as soon as the date has been fixed it is hoped to make it known to all interested who live in London and within easy distance of the College. It is to be regretted that owing to the fact that subscriptions are still coming in from abroad, the amount received cannot be announced till a later date.



THE collection organised for the benefit of French soldiers blinded in the war, by the Parish Fêtes Committee, in collaboration with members of the Académie Culinaire de Bruxelles, has brought in a sum of 14,508 francs (about £290), to which has to be added 3,200 francs (about £70) given by the Brussels society.

The money will be devoted by the Union des Aveugles to the construction of a holiday home at Franceville, where blind men and their children in need of a change of air will be able to have a month's holiday.



At a Daffodil Show, held recently at St. Oswald's, Little Horton, a blind exhibitor, Mr. Arthur Davis, of Marshfields, Bradford, was awarded a prize in the shape of a pocket-book, value £1, for a bowl of daffodils grown entirely by himself.

BRAILLE MAGAZINES Contents of the April Numbers

Progress,—The Poets Laureate—The Oxford and Cambridge Boat-Race—A Cinque Port (Poem)— One of India's Queens—Garden Notes (April)— Playing-Cards for the Blind—Qur Prize Competitions National Library for the Blind-Matters of the

Moment-The Question-Box-Chess-Our Home Page —Advertisements.

The Literary Journal.—Illusion—Gilbert and Sullivan -Sir Ernest Shackleton-The Popes Benedict-The Problem of China—National Library for the Blind— Recent additions to the Massage Library—Bihleteaching in Schools-All about Dogs-"Mauretania" under Öil Fuel.

School Magazine.—Little Brother Ishi-II (concluded) chool Magazine.—Little Brother Ishi-II (concluded)
—National Library for the Blind—Annual Migrations ("Children's Newspaper")—Is Mars Dead or
Alive? ("My Magazine")—Queries—Easter
Cistoms ("Windsor Magazine")—Marcus Aurelius and
his Meditarions—Biography in Brief: Sir Thomas
Gresham (1519–1579)—English Characteristics—
"The Miracle" (Poem), by John Drinkwater—The
Doctoring of Trees ("Children's Newspaper").

Comrades .- King Arthur and the Knights (II): The Founding of the Kingdom (from the "Children's Encyclopædia") — St. George and the Dragon ("Children's Encyclopædia)" — The Interloper (Nature Stories to tell to Children)—John Alters his Mind (Grade I)—Merrylegs ("My Magazine")— Puzzles-The Duck and the Kangaroo (Poem), by Edward Lear.

Musical Magazine.-The Certificate of Efficiency-Special N. I.B. Edition Concert at Liverpool—London Society of Organists visit the N. I.B.—The New Conductor of the Royal Choral Society—Obituary: Oscar Beringer—Advertisement—National Library for the Blind-Embossed Literature Postal Rates-The Pianoforte of Emmanuel Moor (continued)— Music at the National Institute—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews—Insets: Piano, "Moods of a Mind" (Book 2), H. V. Spanner—Song: "Is Life a Boon?" (from the Yeomen of the Guard), Sullivan.

CITY OF NORWICH.

Wanted a Female HOME TEACHER (sighted) under Blind Persons Act. Must possess knowledge of Braille and Moon Type; also some technical knowledge. Salary £156 per annum for whole time service. Applications endorsed "Home Teacher" stating age, qualifications and experience accompanied by copies of testimonials to be delivered to the undersigned on or before May 12th.

Guildhall, Norwich, ARNOLD H. MILLER 15th April, 1922.

Town Clerk.

Massage Journal, being the official organ of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs,— Official Notices—News in the Massage World—The Objective Study of Neurosis, by F. L. Golla, M. B. Oxon., F.R.C.P. London(concluded)—An Address on Hypnosis and Suggestion, by William Brown, M.A., M.D.Oxon., D.Sc, M.R.C.P.London (concluded) —The Abdominal Wall, hy Arthur Edmunds, C.B., M.S., F.R.C.S. (to be continued).

Channels of Blessing .- Editorial Notes and Notices Abide in Me-Our Paraniount Need-Mary at the Grave—The Corn of Wheat Dying—A Canadian Girl's Story—The Word Opened Day by Day—Our Letter from India—A Conference in Poland—The Morning (Sir Arthur Pearson)—Gleanings—The Norris Memorial—The Prayer Union—With Christ in the School of Prayer.

Santa Lucia.—A Lonely Protector of the Birds— National Library for the Blind—The Great Im-personation, chapters 10-11 (to be continued), by E. Phillips Oppenheim — Camphor from the Head-Hunters' Island-Bread from the Stones-A Chinese Motor Smash.

Hampstead Magazine.—Sanctuary, by Edgar Wallace
—A Child of the Famine, by Jack Boyle—A Curse
Fulfilled—Bell as Big as a Church!—Was Joan of Arc Burnt ?-Best Stories,

The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type). —The Locked Door—Secrets of Westminster Abbey—The only Cure-Hymn Writers' Whims.

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world day by day, keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. Subscription, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.

Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called *Nuggets*. This production takes the place of such papers as *Answers*, *Tit-Bits*, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs. The name Nuggets gives the key-note to the paper and is a very happy one, for the news paragraphs given are indeed "nuggets" taken from the vast gold-mine of the world's interesting treasureheaps. A feature which has been introduced is a sporting page, which deals with every phase of sport, and is undoubtedly a very popular feature of the paper. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 3d. per copy (4d. post free), 10s. per year; Abroad, 4d. per copy, 12s. 6d. per year.

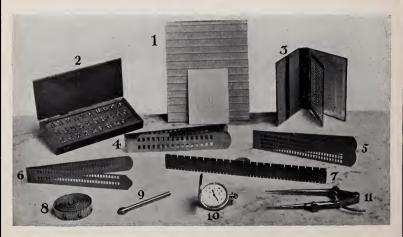
Skelhorn's Pencil Writing Frame for the Blind. Apply, sending stamped addressed envelope, to Skelhorn, 153 Sefton Street, Southport.

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



GAMES FOR THE BLIND.—Draughts, Russian Fives, Chess, Chess and Draughts Outfit, Cheery Families, Bridge and Whist Cards, Patience Cards.



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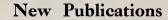


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_________ NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND





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VOL. VI.-No. 66.

JUNE, 1922.

PRICE 3D.

SOME COMMERCIAL ASPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

Address given by Mr. BEN PURSE (Superintendent, Civilian After-Care Department, National Institute for the Blind), at the Spring Course of Lectures for Craft Teachers arranged by the College of Teachers of the Blind

ADIES and Gentlemen,

The subject upon which I have been invited to speak to you to-day is one which I am confident must have engaged your thoughtful attention from the very moment that you decided to make teaching your life's profession. Under such circumstances, it may be that the views and opinions I have to express may not always bear the impress of originality, but they may serve a useful purpose by being presented in an ordered and easily accessible form.

Whatever others may think of the structure of a craft teacher, I do not hesitate to say here and now that in the management and conduct of our institutions and organisations for the blind, those who are conscientiously labouring in the sphere of industrial training are entrusted with a great task, the enormity and importance of which cannot easily be overstated.

There was a time, not far removed, when we were frequently told that we had not quite the right type of man and woman in the profession. I make bold, however, to say that most of us who know something of the old conditions that prevailed will agree that there was, and to some extent still is a very good reason with which to account for the then exist-

ing situation. The fact that the remuneration offered was paltry and in no sense commensurate with the duties and responsibilities that had to be undertaken accounts in a large measure for the type of teacher already alluded to. I think it may generally be said to be true that the societies got what they were prepared to pav for, and they had no legitimate right to expect more; no craft teacher with whom I have ever been acquainted could afford to work purely for charity, and the authorities of many institutions apparently forgot the wholesome and salutary axiom that "The labourer is worthy of his hire."

Before concluding these introductory observations, I want to remind those whom it mainly concerns-those with whom appointments of craft teachers are vested—that your teacher of the blind, to be really a success, must above all other things be resourceful, for he realises only too well how he must utilise every means he can devise in order that he may secure satisfactory and definite results. Were it not for his initiative and resourcefulness, there would be many more failures than at present, and I am afraid that this important phase of his work is but imperfectly understood and rarely appreciated by those who are said to administer the

affairs of our great institutions. It is in the very nature of things that such people can only have at the best a superficial knowledge of essential requirements, but very properly these limitations would be unpardonable in the conduct of a craft instructor.

I venture to make these preliminary observations because I have often felt that the craft instructor does not always enjoy the status he should in our organisations, and I attribute this largely to a want of real understanding on the part of the responsible authorities. One is aware, too, that professional jealousy is sometimes responsible for this unwholesome discrimination, but, fortunately for all concerned, this difficulty has almost ceased to exist. The really enlightened teacher knows well enough that unless his efforts are ably seconded and supported by the craft instructor, one of the fundamental objects of all primary and secondary teaching will be irrevocably lost. That we all recognise to-day the sanity of this view-point augurs well for the future, and leads one irresistibly to the conclusion that so long as there exists a spirit of mutual helpfulness and cooperation among the allied branches of the teaching profession, none but the best results can ensue.

Some time ago I wrote an article entitled "The Status of Trade Instructors," from which I desire to quote excerpts which, in some degree, emphasise the points I have already endeavoured to urge. Such a repetition, I take it, will not be out of place here when discussing so

important a subject.

"If the technical education and industrial efficiency of the sightless worker is to give evidence of definite improvement in the near future, we must perforce not rely exclusively on the aptitude and disposition of the person undergoing such training. The effort, initiative and enterprise of the pupil counts for something, undoubtedly, but all these considerations are certainly neutralised if the means for obtaining instruction are permitted to become obsolete or otherwise defective."

"It is generally conceded by those who are most competent to express an opinion, that far too little attention has been devoted to the setting up of the machinery requisite for discharging such obligations, and it is thus by undervaluing the *modus* operandi that we have all unconsciously contributed to those factors which tend to maintain at a low level the standard of industrial and economic utility."

"It is as certain as anything very well can be that the productivity of the average blind worker must continue to be appreciably below that of the man whose acquirements are unlimited by any form of handicap, but it is equally true that the general level is much lower than need be, because we have heretofore conspicuously failed to appreciate the fact that the means generally employed to reach the given object have been far too crude, haphazard and entirely lacking in scienti-

fic application.'

"Generally, it is held that the proper persons to give instructions to the blind in various trades are those whose handiwork shows some marked distinction of quality and craftsmanship, and there is certainly something to be said for such a view, for quality of workmanship must never be under-estimated. Such an attitude, however, does not by any means express the final requirement of the situation, for oftentimes it happens that an excellent craftsman possesses no ability to impart his knowledge, and innumerable failures have been registered because of the lack of real ability to instruct on the part of those with whom the responsibility has been vested. It is nothing short of a grotesque fallacy to assume that any and every person can so instruct. The Education Authorities require a long preparation for the teaching profession, for experience has shown how very necessary this is: hence the reason for their rigid insistence upon the practical part of this work. No one would dream of attributing blame to them for so doing. If it is so necessary then to demand a reasonably high standard of attainment from the teacher in ordinary schools, it must surely be of not less value to set up a standard that can claim legitimate respect for the training of those who aspire to become trade instructors to the blind.'

"Speed and efficiency are the requirements of the age, and unless we contrive as far as we are able to keep in close co-operation with the developments that

are taking place in the industrial arena. our ability to produce will even more disproportioned grow, and the tendency of all our modern educational methods in the blind world will thus be neutralised. Our object surely is to minimise the handicap, not to unduly accentuate disabilities and create artificial limitations. We cannot be too insistent upon this point, for if our system of education and industrial training does not make for the promotion of a higher standard of dexterity and general efficiency, then we are simply pursuing an insane policy of drift which signalises ultimate disaster and tends to discredit the labour of the blind in all spheres of commercial activity."

"Having clearly in mind, then, the true interests of the blind community, we can no more afford to ignore these essentials than the sea captain would dare to decline the use of his chart and compass."

"Some of our industrial institutions are providing tolerably good opportunities for imparting training, but they are most lamentably few in number, and it is a matter of profound regret to us not to be able to speak approvingly of the system generally in operation. It is not intended here to criticise any one single organisation, but merely to draw attention to the general defects, and to argue the necessity for reconstructing the entire system."

"In order that a higher and more uniform level of teaching capacity may be available for our industrial establishments, it does seem essential that opportunities should be provided for those who wish to become instructors to the blind, and any organisation that will undertake the business of preparing such instructors will confer an immense boon upon the blind and on all associated with their employment. Especially would it be valuable if opportunities were afforded such persons for acquiring a knowledge of practical teaching before being engaged by institutions to take up salaried appointments."

The last phrase of the foregoing paragraph brings us face to face with yet another defect which seems to be almost inherent in the course of treatment meted out to those discharging the difficult

duties of trade instructors. In some of the residential institutions particularly, we much regret to find that the last named are denied the status given to other branches of the teaching profession. They are treated as a sort of tolerated quantity, and denied privileges common to other members of the staff. Such an attitude cannot be reasonably defended, or successfully sustained, and there can be no doubt that it is not conducive to those good domestic relationships that ought to exist in every such well-regulated establishment. Moreover, it is manifestly absurd to attempt so to differentiate, for so far as the interests of the blind community are involved all branches of our activities are so closely allied, interwoven and interdependent, that few of us can legitimately afford to say that we are one shred more necessary or important than the rest.

If only we could get this view-point into our minds, we should certainly be wiser and happier folk; there would be no room for those heart-burnings and petty jealousies which so frequently destroy friendships and tend to sully the work in which we are all engaged.

It is true that many experienced people have long felt the necessity for something to be done to attract a good type of instructor who, while being a thoroughly practical workman, also possesses other equally necessary qualifications, but it is of little use merely to theorise on the subject without attempting to get to the bed-rock of the difficulty, and a longing for a change will not of itself produce any tangible or satisfactory The simple truth is that these positions have seldom been made to attract from the remunerative point of view, hence we have lost therefrom something of immense value in the past because of a niggardly, cheese-paring policy.

"If the results of our training are sometimes disappointing, one fact at least is clearly revealed: we have obtained more substantial advantages than could reasonably have been anticipated from the present system of trade instruction, and it seems to us that these results are largely to be attributed to the enterprise and capacity of the blind worker."

"Two conditions must be observed in this connection. The salaries should be more commensurate with the responsibilities involved, and we should not be less mindful of the fact that if we are to attract a larger number of sightless people to a life of industry, in substitution of the conditions they have now to encounter, we must offer more than the stinted. meagre form of existence that is usually held out to them. The payment of mere piece-work prices will not and cannot solve this difficulty. Liberal supplementary grants will always be necessary, and should be available, not only to be administered as additions to wages earned, but also for the purposes of providing full maintenance during the period of training; otherwise, the efforts of the ablest instructors will be stultified if the pupil is worried by economic anxiety.'

It is fitting at the moment that the attention of such an audience should be drawn to this subject, for the period of industrial reconstruction now with us must of necessity affect every class of worker, and it is incumbent upon the institutions to keep their machinery as efficient as possible in order that they may be prepared to successfully cope with the coming and inevitable changes.

(To be concluded.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION RESTRICTIONS REMOVED

WE are glad to be in a position to state that the restrictions referred to in circulars 1245 and 1246 of the Board of Education have now been removed, and although up to the present we are not aware that any circulars have been issued officially withdrawing the above, we are in a position to state that should any question arise the statement will be confirmed by reference to the Board of Education.

READERS who wish to have particulars concerning the programme arranged in connection with the 13th British Esperanto Congress to be held in London at Whitsuntide should communicate with the Hon. Sec., Mrs. E. R. Edmonds, 19, Dellcott Road, Welwyn Garden City.

APPARATUS FOR THE BLIND

A BRIEF account of the various appliances obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, may be of interest and assistance to many of our readers. A revised catalogue of such appliances has just been issued by the Institute, and the articles enumerated, together with the prices quoted below, will be found to be entirely up to date.

First and foremost special attention should be called to that most useful of all objects, the watch. A watch for the blind—genuine "Waltham," in heavy silver Hunter case with jewelled movements—is supplied in three grades, at the following prices: £4 7s. 6d., £5 5s., and £6 7s. 6d. These timepieces are provided with enamel dials, the quarter hours are represented by two small dots, the remaining numbers by one large dot, and the hands are sufficiently strengthened to meet the requirements of the

sightless.

Of equal importance to the blind is writing apparatus. The Stainsby-Wayne Braille writer is an entirely upto-date and rapid machine, designed to write on both sides of the paper, the keys travelling from right to left whilst the Braille is being written. A small bell indicates the approaching termination of a line. A folding board on which the machine is placed is included in the apparatus. At present one model of this machine is procurable, namely, the large size interlining model with ordinary keys. Full instructions in Braille and ink are supplied with the machine, the price of which is £2 15s. for residents in the British Isles and £3 13s. 6d. for the colonies and abroad. Those who prefer writing by means of a frame can obtain a large-size Braille writing frame (interlining) at 6s. (for British purchasers), and 9s. (colonial We would and foreign purchasers). also call attention to the metal nine-line interlining frame price 9s. for all purchasers. Braille pocket frames and postcard pocket books are obtainable at prices ranging from 3s. 9d. to 8s. 6d. Different kinds of styles are obtainable for use with the frames from 4d. to

Is. 9d. The price per lb. of brailling paper is now as follows: Best manilla, 4d.; second best manilla, 3d.; thin manilla, 4d.; and shorthand rolls (for the Stainsby-Wayne Shorthand machine described below), 8d. (all postage extra).

Besides the Braille writing frames mentioned above, various kinds of frames for pen or pencil writing are obtainable, from 1s. to 7s.

No blind correspondence clerk should be without the Stainsby-Wayne Braille Shorthand Writer. This machine is designed for the taking down of verbatim reports or letters from dictation. The matter is recorded on a strip of paper automatically passed through the machine from a roll. The price of this machine is £6 7s. 6d. (British Isles) and £8 10s. (colonial and foreign), whilst a walnut case is supplied at £3 12s. 6d.

Students will find the Arithmetic and Algebra frames, price 5s. 6d. (small size) and 7s. 6d. (large size) most useful for working out problems. The Geometrical Demonstration Board, baize-covered and firmly padded to allow the insertion of pins in any position (price £1 7s. 6d. British, and £1 17s. 6d. colonial and foreign) will be found indispensable in Geometry classes for the blind, whilst further geometrical appliances are to be found in the compasses and spur wheels (price 7s. gd. for British purchasers and 10s. 6d. for the colonies and abroad).

Another appliance used in schools is the Braillette Board. This is fashioned in the form of a wooden box with 30 six-dot cells drilled through the block. The board is supplied with 100 metal pins with which the Braille characters are formed. When the lid is closed and the box inverted, the characters as they should be written are exposed. The price is 3s. 9d.

Among other useful items to be found in the catalogues we note the following: Brass footrules (3s.), Braille tape-measures (5s. 3d.), clock dials (1s. 3d. British, 2s. 6d. foreign and colonial), needles (2d. per packet), needle-threaders (2d. each).

Appliances for use in connection with various trades are procurable, such as pianoforte-makers' tools (vellum-hinging tool 9s., boring-out tool 14s.), screwgrips for tuners (1s. 9d.), shoe-mending appliances (double heel marker 8s., heel marker 5s., sole marker 8s., waist marker 5s. edge plane 5s., metal heel and sole pattern in sets of 21, 6s. 6d.).

A very large selection of games for the blind is to be found, of which the revised price-list is as follows:—

	GAMES,						
	Bi			British			ial
			Isles	s.	& Fo	reig	ţn.
9087	Cards, Patience	0	1	6	0	1	6
9088	Ditto, Ordinary	0	1	6	0	1	6
9086	Cheery Families	0	3	0	0	3	0
9091	Chessboard Folding	0	15	6	0	15	6
9093	Ditto, Flat	0	8	6	0	8	6
9094	Chessmen (in mahogany						
	box)	0	9	0	0	9	0
9167	Chess and Draughts Out-						
	fit (in cardboard box)	0	5	0	0	5	0
9090	Draughtsboard, Folding	0	14	6	0	14	6
9092	Ditto, Flat	0	7	6	0	7	6
9095	Draughtsmen (in maho-						
	gany box)	0	3	9	0	3	9
9173	Ditto (pegged)	0	8	6	0	8	6
9097	Dominoes (Double-Blank						
	to Double-six)	0	6	0	0	6	0
9176	Ditto (Seven-Blank						
	to Double-nine)	0	6	0	0	6	0
9178	Noughts and Crosses	.0	0	9	0	0	9
9179	Puzzle, The "15"	0	3	0	0	3	0
9170	Russian Fives	0	10	0	0	15	6
9098	Word-Making and Word-						
	Taking	0	1	0	0	4	0
9099	Card for ditto	0	0	2	0	0	2
9185	Brahma Puzzle	0	0	9	0	0	9

From the above brief summary it will be seen that the blind are now being extremely well catered for both as regards articles for use and those destined for recreation. The catalogue mentioned in this article is fully illustrated, and can be obtained on application, while separate catalogues of the books and music in embossed type printed and published by the National Institute for the Blind are also obtainable at the Institute.



THERE is a bit of inspiration in the example of the blind man in a middle western state who lights the street lamps of his own town every evening that others may see.—American "Outlook for the Blind."



Councillor J. Mathewson Watson

UNDER the heading of "Northern Lights," the Daily Despatch, Manchester, is giving short, interesting and amusing notices concerning prominent men in Manchester. In the issue dated April 25th, a paragraph was devoted to Councillor J. Mathewson Watson, a member of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind and the Hon. Treasurer of its Northern Branch. The paragraph, accompanied by the striking caricature by "Matt" of the Daily Sketch, reproduced on this page by kind permission of the Daily Despatch, runs as follows:—

"Behold in Councillor John Mathewson Watson a poor, struggling Scotsman (the adjectives are his own), who has distributed nearly half a million of money to worthy objects. Scotsmen have been known to struggle for money before. Councillor Watson is Caledona's champion collector. Children who accidentally swallow threepenny bits should be taken to him, for it is rumoured he can get money out of anybody.

"Here are two examples. As hon. secretary of St. Dunstan's (local) Fund,

he raised nearly £250,000.* Under his direction, the King's Fund (Manchester) for Soldiers reached £70,000—a provincial record. Add amounts collected for the Princess Mary Fund, the White Heather Society, and other good causes, and the half-million comes in sight. All this during 16 years in Manchester. Has Scotland any more strugglers to spare?

"Born in Lanarkshire, he and Sir Harry Lauder were pit boys together, and are still fast friends. Lauder left the pit for stage and fortune. Watson left for Glasgow University and education. Is now the Manchester head of the Scottish Temperance Assurance Company. During office hours he insures people's lives; in his leisure ensures them some happiness."

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LIEUT.-COL. CAMERON, C. M. G., D.S.O., Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, has revised Mr. Henry J. Wilson's pamphlet, "Information with regard to Institutions, Societies, Classes and Hostels for the Blind in the United Kingdom." For purposes of reference, this pamphlet is indispensable to anyone engaged in work for the blind, and an up-to-date edition will be much appreciated by all who are employed in this service. Copies can be obtained from Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.I, price 1s. 3d., post free 1s. 6d.

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"THE BRAILLE PACKET," a monthly magazine containing articles from the Times, the Spectator, etc., will from this month be printed and published by the National Institute for the Blind. The annual subscription is 7s. 6d., abroad 11s. 6d. "The Braille Packet" is edited by Miss Ethel Grimwood, 6o, Wilbury Road, Hove, Sussex. The Hon. Secretary is the Rev. W. E. Lloyd, Chaplain to the National Institute for the Blind, Metropolitan Area, 45, Stanlake Road, London, W.12.

^{*}The money raised was only partly for St, Dunstan's, as the National Institute for the Blind and local institutions were also participants.—Editor, BEACON.

THE IMAGINATION OF THE BLIND CHILD

By J. M. ROWLEY



T is almost impossible for a person in the full possession of his senses to realise the mental condition of someone who does not possess those senses in their entirety. Especially is this so when the subject of comparison has never in this life possessed a certain sense, even in the smallest degree. Of what does a man born stone-

deaf think when he sees a dog violently barking? What does a child, blind from birth, understand when she is told the sky is blue? These are matters of which we can hardly hope to obtain adequate knowledge, because the response, for example, of a blind child to such a question would probably wander through all the synonyms for "blue" that she had ever heard, the questioner not coming a whit nearer the actual original idea of the child as to what she imagines the sky looks like. In most cases, only a dictionary definition can be supplied.

But although it is practically impossible to understand the actual signification of the term "colour" to a person blind from birth, of "sound" to one who has always been stone-deaf, very definite ideas of colour and sound certainly exist within their own minds, although these are in most cases incapable of verbal description. A blind girl was once asked what she understood by "red." "Red," she replied, " is like the blast of a trumpet." This apt simile simply proves that the imagination of a blind person, far from being stunted in growth by the lack of sight, is merely led along different channels, and perhaps can dive into the inner meaning of visual things which, solely because such things are visual, are hidden from those who can see. Worked out from a scientific point of view, it is a very fine comparison, for light and sound are

vibrations—the one on the retina of the eye, and the other on the drum of the ear. When either of those organs of sensation are absent, vibration is felt on the skin. Red, of all the colours of the spectrum, requires the least number of vibrations to produce, and the sound of a trumpet bears a similar relationship to the more sensitive instruments, such as the harp or the violin. Experiments have been made in connection with this theory by taking totally blind people into a room they do not know, where the predominant colouring is red and the furniture mahogany; its general influence on the blind is that of heaviness—they feel few vibrations on the skin. The same person, taken into a room where the walls are light, the furniture is elegant and the colouring delicate, is more buoyant, because the vibrations are infinitely more rapid.

To return to blind children, however; it is found from experience that the imagination of a child blind from birth, but otherwise in complete possession of the senses and with average mentality, is extraordinarily quick, vivid and precise. This must partly be due to the interest the budding intelligence of a blind child finds in instantaneously transforming all ideas into form or sound. Everything is in bold relief; to think of a dog is to feel his coat, his breath panting on the cheek, his tail wagging, whereas a sighted person's thoughts of a dog would generally be the flashing memory of an action, an ensemble of motion and regard, a glance of affection from big brown eyes, nothing strictly definite or tangible. A blind person must think in outlines, masses, contours; a sighted person most frequently thinks in pictures which are all colour, light and shade, not definitely outlined, fading into mist. The blind man moulds his imaginations, the sighted man colours them; one is a sculptor, the other a

painter. The instinct of moulding mental pictures into form to a certain extent renders the mental growth of the blind child dependent on touch. All within touch can be readily comprehended and memorised as form-pictures in relief. In similar fashion, a sighted child is mainly dependent for mental growth on what is seen, and all within range of his sight can be understood and memorised as light and shade—pictures in colour. If two children, sighted and blind, had an uncle with a big nose, the one would know what the said nose looked like, the other what it felt like.

The immediate world of the blind child. therefore, is limited in comparison with that of his brother who can see. fairy story be told to the two, the sighted child sees every character pass before his eyes; everything is real, all is in motion. The Princess is pretty Aunt Rose walking in the garden; her horse running away is like Dobbin scampering across the meadow; the Ogre like the wizened-faced gardener bent over his cabbages, and so on. But what of the blind listener? His mind is waiting eagerly to sculpture the story into form, into a grouping of still life, but his ideas of the Princess and the Ogre must largely be dependent on the intonation of the narrator's voice and its mimicry, as the Beautiful Lady and Horrible Miscreant pass across the scene, while the runaway horse vanishes altogether from his mind's eye as soon as legs begin to move. Perforce, to keep up with the horse, the child's imagination must work harder; otherwise, he cannot understand. He cannot visualise movement, he can only imagine it. The sighted child sees it; consequently, if the two were to recite the story afterwards, the result, generally speaking, would be quite different. The sighted child would give a fairly accurate description of the pictures that had passed successively before him. The blind child would fill up the gaps between his mental groups of statuary according to his own imagination. We may conclude, therefore, that the lack of sight tends to vivify the imagination rather than to deaden it, calling for more effort and concentration.

Again, tell any child a story, and the points he will remember most are more

often than not something that he has not actually seen. If you bring into the story a horrible monster as long as the Great Western Railway, and with eyes as big as the dome of St. Paul's, that will impress him more than a cat dozing before a fire. In like manner, a blind child will be constantly introducing names colours, light, the sun, gold and silver, into his prattle, because these are the points which have most impressed him and aroused his imagination—the things that he does not quite understand. blind child, forced by the lack of sight to draw more frequently from the world of his imagination, is apt to mingle the fruits of his imagination, and co-related ideas take form as a unit.

The following illustrates one or two of the points which we have endeavoured to

distinguish above:-

Dora, at the age of five years, totally blind, having led a very normal, active life, was like all other children interested in Santa Claus. She had had the style of his appearance vividly described to her, and also his method of access to houses. About the same time she had also acquired some information about soot. Mixing the two facts with a lavish amount of the colour which was a mystery to her, she related the following little story:-

"Santa Claus is afraid to come down the chimney in case he should dirty his nice white hair and red coat, so this year he is coming down like a sweep. He will carry his toys in a big soot-bag; the bag will be all white inside, so that the toys will not get dirty. Santa Claus will be quite black, so that when he gets into the room we shall not be able to see him in the darkness; and if we did, we should be so afraid of the soot that we should not go near him in case we dirtied our white night-

The yearning after light is illustrated in the following verses, the entirely original work of Helen, aged seven years,

a partially sighted child:—

The Prettiest Place of All. You know the middle of the sun, The bright, bright glistening sun, Well, there the stars lie all curled up, The moon curls herself too.

My mind has been up there, you know, It is the prettiest place, It is all gardens, little candles, pretty Oh, it is the loveliest place!

The stars and moon lying "curled up" is distinctly a blind child's idea, an idea of form. It would scarcely have occurred to anyone who could actually see, and who would most probably have said something about colour and light.

BEAUTY.

When the dew-drop shines so bright, In the cool, clear morning light, Then we get up and dress and play And love the beauty all the day.

A point in the imagery of this child worthy of note is its local atmosphere. During the summer Helen, living in the country, is found peopling the meadows with ferocious Ogres:—

DANGER.
In a meadow with some hay,
Six or seven miles away,
Lived an O are tall and strong

Six or seven miles away, Lived an Ogre tall and strong, Never ceased in killing one.

You always were afraid to go In the meadow there, you know, For out springs the Ogre, tall and strong, And off goes your head before very long.

With the return of Helen to busy town life and daily school duties, the spoken poetry waned, and the imagery of her mind began to take form in dance and rhythmic movement. In such manner she combined the beauty of form and sound which were so natural and easy for her to conceive, and expressed it by the means of her own body.

The tendency to express ideas by music

is found in nearly all blind people, although it is only given to the minority to compose. The examples of verses given above, however, show that the blind children in question had definite ideas of rhythm, and this has been proved in many other ways. In rhythmic tests of ten blind babies under five at "Sunshine House," Chorley Wood, the Blind Babies' Home of the National Institute for the Blind, it was found that more than half of them had an almost perfect knowledge of rhythm, and that if given one or two bars of a sixteen-beat measure,

they could complete it without either adding or taking away half a beat, and would invariably end the tune on the keynote.

Having this gift of beating time, it is

only a step to weighing accent in a line of poetry; and although, perhaps, not noticeable at once, the blind child's simple phraseology is often lisped to pentameter measure or even in blank verse.

"IS IT THE REAL OUEEN?"

N May 18th their Majesties the King and Queen, during a visit to Olympia, were very much interested in the Blind Babies' Nursery at the exhibition stand of "Sunshine House," the Blind Babies' Home of the National Institute for the Blind.

One of the babies, Doris John, aged three, presented the Queen with a bouquet of flowers. She had been very excited all the afternoon at the prospect of this presentation, and evidently had a high sense of her responsibility. When at last the Queen came and Doris was told to hand Her Majesty the flowers, she could scarcely believe the great moment had arrived. Tightly clutching her bouquet she lisped: "But are you the real Queen?" Her Majesty, evidently greatly touched by this pathetic little question, knelt down to the sightless little mite and said: "Yes, I am the Queen." "Then," said baby Doris, "you shall have the flowers—because you are the real Queen."

The King was equally interested in the wonderful work the National Institute is doing for blind babies, and asked if the little ones present were the same babies he remembered seeing last year. "All different babies," was the reply—for unhappily there is a long waiting list at "Sunshine House," and the little inmates soon change. Her Majesty expressed her satisfaction at the work the National Institute for the Blind is doing.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

THE office of the headquarter staff of the Insurance Department of the Ministry of Health has, we tre informed, been transferred from Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.I. to the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, London, S.W.I.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb.—According to the 45th Annual Report of this Institution, there are now 66 pupils on the roll. Besides the subjects contained in the ordinary school curriculum the pupils are taught carpentry, cookery, laundry, house-work, and raffia work, the latter forming the basis of future work at the Royal Institution for the Blind. A museum for blind children, containing a selection of animals and shells, was recently inaugurated.

Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and Free Circulating Library for the Blind .- This society announces a successful record of work for the year 1921. Its home teachers, six in number, are engaged in visiting and giving instructions in subjects such as reading, writing, knitting, crocheting, sewing, etc., to blind persons throughout the entire State. Whilst the majority are visited in their own homes, more than 200 blind adults, resident in the various charitable institutions of Philadelphia apart from the institutions provided solely for the blind, receive the regular care and attention of the society's home teachers. During the year under review, a total of 7,185 visits was paid in the city and State, and the number of pupils was 307. The number of books circulated from the Free Library of Philadelphia, where the Society's Library is located, and from the Carnegie Library, was 37,988, of which 27,983 were in Moon type. It should be noted that Moon and Revised Braille, Grade 11, are the types most in favour among blind readers in the State at the present time.

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WE have received a brief account of the "Pukersdorfer" Society for Aiding the Blind, Vienna. This institution was founded in 1904, in memory of J. W. Klein, the initiator of education for the blind in Austria. Blind persons who are unemployed or sick are aided in every possible way, and the Society has a registration bureau for tuners, musicians, brush, basket, and chair-makers. There

is, furthermore, a lending-library of embossed music—the only one of its kind in Austria. The Society subsists on voluntary contributions.

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A SCHEME for the amalgamation of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind and the North Staffordshire Joint Board Welfare Committee has been approved.

A NEW home for blind girls has been opened at The Woodlands, Bolton.

"EYES TO THE BLIND"

THE "Eyes to the Blind" Society, directed by Miss Douglas Hamilton, has been transferred to the Barclay Workshops, Crawford Street, W., owing to Miss Douglas Hamilton's failing On May 15 a few of the blind health. girls who have benefited so greatly by Miss Douglas Hamilton's work for the blind during the past thirty years presented her with a testimonial expressive of their great appreciation of her truly splendid work on their behalf. testimonial, which consisted of a cheque accompanied by an illuminated address upon vellum with a morocco binding, upon which the names of some 86 donors were inscribed, was, by request, handed to Miss Douglas Hamilton by Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L. (himself blind from boyhood and well acquainted with Miss Douglas Hamilton's unique services). Sir Washington Ranger, after reading the reviewe'd Miss testimonial, Hamilton's splendid work and expressed the appreciation of the many blind women and girls whom she had so greatly assisted. Miss Douglas Hamilton was greatly touched by the unexpected event, and made a brief and suitable reply to the address.

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To instruct mankind in things the most excellent, and honour and applaud those learned men who perform this service with industry and care is a duty the performance of which must procure the love of all good men.—Xenophon.

THE MEDICO-SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY

By J. LLOYD JOHNSTONE, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P, Lond., Mem. British Med. Assoc., Librarian of the Medico-Scientific Library of the National Institute for the Blind





HE practice of Massage is a very different matter nowadays to what it was not so many years ago; then so long as the masseur was in possession of a limited knowledge of anatomy, and an even more limited knowledge of physiology, together with some general idea of the theory and practice of massage, and was able to perform cer-

tain movements upon the patient's body which were termed "rubbing," he considered himself competent to undertake massage work, and in virtue of his more or less skilful manipulations was known to the public by the not very dignified name of a "rubber." There were. however, in the times to which I refer, a few people who really deserved the title of masseur or masseuse, who had been well grounded in their work by competent teachers, and who practised the art with all skill and knowledge available at that period; it is due in great measure to some of these pioneers of massage that this profession has attained the high standard at which it is now found.

During the past few years, and especially during the Great War, a strong stimulus has been given to the work of massage and the allied sciences. More attention has been paid to the study of anatomy and physiology, with a general idea of pathology and the repair and healing of wounds, for without some intelligent knowledge of these matters no person can be in a position to undertake the charge of a patient.

A more elaborate system of the treatment of injury and disease has sprung up, and this has entailed a wider field of study, and the masseur of to-day is, in consequence, no longer the mere "rubber" of ten or fifteen years ago.

The training of the masseur of the present day, be he sighted or blind, is conducted on a very different scale, and this is mainly due to the efforts of the examination authorities who, by raising the standard of their examinations, have insured that only thoroughly trained persons can take up practice in the work of massage, remedial exercises and electrotherapy.

Moving with the times, and in order that blind persons trained in their School of Massage may have the same facilities as a sighted person in preparing for examinations and in keeping up-to-date in their work after qualifying, the Council of the National Institute for the Blind decided to form a library for the sole use of blind students and practitioners of massage, with the result that such a library was opened in December, 1919. Great care has been taken in the selection of the books, and only those are provided which deal with subjects both useful as well as needful to those who use the library.

The material at the disposal of readers covers a wide range of scientific literature. and includes works on aids to medicine and surgery, human and comparative anatomy, physiology, psychology, medical gymnastics and medical electricity, in addition to those more particularly confined to the theory and practice of massage. All these volumes have, of course, been transcribed into Braille direct from the print copies, with the exception of those on anatomy, physiology, physiology of the central nervous system, and a dictionary of medical terms, which have been specially edited for use of blind students of massage.

Of these volumes, the library possesses 339; 154 small editions, known as pocket editions, are also provided for the use of readers, and these principally consist of

lectures and articles on subjects of professional interest, taken from the different medical and other journals. The work of compilation of materials suitable for the library and the transcribing of print books into Braille is in constant progress, and it is the desire of the Council of the Institute that the library shall be kept up to date.

As previously mentioned, all blind persons taking up massage and remedial exercises are entitled to the use of the library, provided they produce evidence which satisfies the librarian as to their qualifications to become readers. No fees are charged for the use of the books, and their postage is paid to any part of the United Kingdom.

It is of interest to note that in no single instance where application has been made to authors and publishers of books, and to editors of medical and other journals for permission to use their productions, has this request been refused, and the successful working of the library is largely due to the kind sympathy and generosity of these gentlemen.

MEETING OF GERMAN BLINDED SOLDIERS

N May 10th last a large number of blinded. Corner blinded German soldiers met together in Berlin. Representatives of the Government and the Press, and officials of institutions for the blind were present, and we are informed by a correspondent in Berlin that the Chairman described the urgent needs of some of their comrades who were living in terrible conditions as a result of the small pensions they obtained from the Government. They asked for higher pensions and better after-care than that which they had at present, and the Government promised to do the best that was possible for them. We are also informed that the blinded soldiers who pass through the school in Berlin under the direction of Professor Silex make a good living in addition to their pension, but that those who have learnt only brush and basket making are very badly off.

EX-SERVICE BLIND PENSIONERS

MR. MACPHERSON stated, on May 4th, in reply to Mr. Gilbert, that there were approximately 1,550 blinded officers and men receiving pen-sions from his department. All had been either at St. Dunstan's or at Newington House, Edinburgh, where they had been trained in new occupations suitable to their conditions before returning to their homes. On their return the institutions mentioned continued to keep in touch with them through local representatives. These institutions were maintained out of private funds, and consequently the men had the advantage of receiving allowances at the maximum rate of pensions instead of the smaller allowances which would otherwise be payable.

IN the House of Commons on May 8th, Major Cohen (Co.-U., Liverpool, Fairfield) asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport if he was aware that considerable hardship was being experienced by blind exservice men who were engaged in businesses which necessitated their travelling by train from their home to their work and back, owing, by reason of their disability, to their having to pay for a ticket for their attendant as well as for themselves: and if he would consider the question of making an arrangement with the railway companies by which a rebate would be granted on the tickets of a blind man and his attendant going on a journey connected with the blind man's endeavour to obtain a livelihood.

Mr. Arthur Neal: I am aware that guides do sometimes accompany blind men travelling on the railway, and will bring the question of fares before the companies for consideration and advise the hon. and gallant member of the result. He is, no doubt, aware that the Minister has now no power of giving directions to the companies as to their charges.

HE who receives a good turn should never forget it; he who does one should never remember it.—*Charron*.

THE STAFF OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE MAKE HOLIDAY

S ATURDAY, May 20th, will long be remembered by the staff of the National Institute for the Blind as a red-letter day.

A party numbering 250 and occupying nine charabancs journeyed from the Institute to Windsor. The weather was simply perfect, and everything had been so well arranged that nothing was left undone which could have added to the comfort and pleasure of the excursionists.

We are requested to say that the expenses were borne by the members of the Institute staff and the few friends who accompanied them, and in our judgment, this fact contributed in no small measure to the success of the enterprise. Never has the esprit de corps stood at a higher level than it does to-day among the staff, and these social functions are largely responsible for the good feeling and comradeship which exists. By kind permission of the Committee, work ceased at II a.m., and the conveyances passed gaily along the Marylebone Road at about 11.45. A short halt was made at Kew Bridge for the purpose of taking up a few friends, and thence the party proceeded to the outer confines of the great Metropolis. Soon we were passing through lovely country, where a myriad leafy boughs shed forth a vast panorama of colouring and exquisite beauty which no art can imitate. The photographers and press men were busy plying their trade, and one or two brief halts were made in order to allow them freer scope for the exercise of their calling.

At about 2 o'clock Windsor was reached, and alighting from the motors each group of friends proceeded to carry out the local programme as best befit their inclinations. Captain Towse, V.C., a member of the Council of the Institute, had secured a special permit for us to visit the Castle, and many availed themselves of the arrangements that had so kindly been made in this connection. We were much impressed with the architectural features of the great pile of

buildings. The interior of the Castle, with its great State apartments and the chapels, were all places of keen interest to us, and the memory of such scenes will help to make one of those happy days to which we can often look back when other times and scenes are deep buried in the vast unfathomable sea of forgetfulness.



THE START FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE

Many of the visitors enjoyed to the full the amenities of the great Windsor Park, and we felt really sorry to leave this delightful place. As we looked over the immense park to where the golden sunshine played upon the river below, how many a vista of some far remote historical episode flittered athwart the memory and made us feel it was good—exceedingly good— to be there.

"Time and tide wait for no man," quoth Shakespeare, and so at 5.30 we all forgathered in the large hall of the White Hart Hotel where tea was served. An hour later we resumed our seats for the homeward journey. Moving from Windsor through the famous avenue of elm trees, along leafy lanes we careered, passing the historical meadows of Runimede, and yet onward through other country lanes made sweet and memorable with the rich perfume of dense

masses of hawthorn blossoms and sweet briar roses, for "It is May-time, the

merry, merry May-time."

Making a short halt at a small wayside inn a little beyond Hounslow, some diversion was caused by one of the "sons of toil" (not of our party, we should explain) who had apparently been imbibing at the shrine of Bacchus "not wisely, but too well." However, in not quite the choicest of diction we were treated to a dissertation upon the emigration laws and persistently invited to "leave the cantry." At 8.30 the Institute was reached, and a most enjoyable day thus concluded.

The function was not made the occasion for the delivery of a single speech, and every formality was dispensed with. This all tended to make the excursion a most unqualified success. Our unanimous thanks are due to the Institute's Chief Accountant, Mr. F. C. Bailey, for the organisation of the excursion and for the painstaking efforts he made in connection with the whole affair. The business arrangements were exceedingly planned, the result being, of course, a

great and enjoyable day.

It is confidently predicted that similar functions will be organised in the near future.

BEN PURSE.

THE AFTER-CARE DEPARTMENT of the National Institute for the Blind state that during April 80 fresh cases came under their supervision (50 men and 39 women). Gifts to the number of 29 were provided at a cost of £71 15s. 10d. The number of visits paid was 43. The amount expended in fees was £235 14s. 7d., in relief £478 15s., and in branches relief £53 7s. 8d.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY (N.I.B.)

POCKET EDITIONS.

Flail Joints and Their Treatment, by Sir Robert

Jones, K.B.E., C.B.

Observations on the Elements of the Psycho neuroses, by Henry Head, M.D., F.R.S. Some Functions of the Suprarenal Glands, by

Evelyn E. Hewer.

Rheumatoid Arthritis Due to Infection of the Nasal Accessory Sinus, by P. Watson-Williams, M.D.

ORGAN RECITALS

▲ N important series of Organ Recitals being arranged by National Institute in aid of the funds of the Institute, and also with the object of bringing blind performers before a wider public. The first of these was given in Clapham Parish Church on Wednesday evening, 17th May, by Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., Organist and Director of Music at the National Institute, and was very successful, some 500 people being present. The organ is a fine modern instrument by Hunter, and its many tonal excellencies were demonstrated in a well-chosen programme of some eleven items, five of which were by living blind composers. The Recital concluded with Watling's "Marche Héroïque," written for the opening of the Grand Organ in Johannesburg Town Hall, which promises to become It has recently been an organ classic. published in the National Institute Edition of the works of British blind composers, and has already attracted the attention of some of the greater players, including Mr. Balfour, who has played it twice at the Royal Albert Hall. We shall be glad if our readers will bear the National Institute Recital Scheme in mind and communicate with Mr. Warrilow if they can influence churches or chapels to include a series of recitals on reciprocal terms.



In connection with a concert given by the Guild of Singers and Players at Chelsea Town Hall on June 6th, at 8.15, Mr. F. H. Etcheverria will sing and Mr. Sinclair Logan, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., will play. The programme is an ambitious one, including a humourous cantata.by Bach (rather a surprise in connection with this composer). All those who have heard these artistes will be interested in this announcement.



Do all the good you can-by all the means you can-in all the ways you canin all the places you can-at all the times you can-to all the people you can-as long as ever you can.





HE following account of the work of Mr. Harald Thilander is reprinted from the *Sydenham Gazette* by kind permission of the writer, Mr. W. P. Merrick:—

For twenty years I have enjoyed an intimate correspondence with a man who is both deaf and blind, and I am

tempted to wonder if his achievements might interest others.

Harald Thilander was the only child of a village schoolmaster in Sweden. He was born in 1877, and in his seventh year, after a violent attack of scarlet fever, became quite blind, very deaf, and so weakly that any idea of further education seemed to be out of the question. At nine years old, having lost both parents, he found himself in Eugenia Hemmet, a school and home for the disabled in Stockholm, where he was well cared for and might have remained sheltered for the rest of his life.

For some years he suffered from various maladies, but at sixteen his health improved; he awoke to a keen desire for knowledge, and longed to gain his own livelihood and to be of real use to his fellow men, especially to those who were blind like himself. Despite his deafness. he persuaded other inmates of the home to dictate to him all kinds of school books, especially grammars and dictionaries of foreign languages, which he wrote down in Braille and studied very thoroughly. The extent of this work may be imagined when I say that his English dictionary alone filled over twenty fat volumes in Braille.

He obtained correspondents in many countries. Each of these friends, he found, could give useful hints and experiences, while he could fully recompense them in turn by translating for each the information he had received from others. Thus it struck him that if only the blind had a common international language, they could better co-operate in overcoming the effects of their common handicap.

At first he thought they should all learn English, but the impossibility of transcribing our enormous dictionary into Braille for students of all countries made this scheme unworkable. In 1902 he got to know Esperanto, which, owing to its ingeniously simple construction, can be learnt from a small text book. With characteristic energy he set to work to convince all his correspondents that this language would be invaluable to them as a common medium of expression. He induced them to learn it by copying the key into Braille for them in their own tongue, and by sending them something in Esperanto that he knew they particularly wanted to read. Under his influence a prominent Esperantist stated the case for Esperanto among the blind in an article in the chief Esperanto magazine. This attracted the attention of M. Cart. an eminent Parisian linguist, who collected enough money to print the key in Braille in several languages, and to start, in 1904, a universal Esperanto Braille magazine. which he called Esperanta Ligilo" (a link for the blind).

In 1009 Thilander found employment at the Swedish National Library for the Bl'nd, where he showed great talent in adapting educational books for the use of sightless students. Then he was made editor of the Swedish weekly Braille magazine. Obtaining the necessary machines, he set up a Braille printing press of his own.

In 1912, when M. Cart was too busy to continue the *Ligilo*, Thilander stepped in, took the whole responsibility for the editing, printing, and publication of the magazine on his shoulders, and even found financial supporters for it, as the

blind readers were not able to subscribe enough to defray the cost of production. He even maintained it during the war, until the end of 1916, after which he found it utterly impossible to distribute it to the blind of the twenty-seven countries in which it circulated.

After the war Thilander again started the Ligilo aided by a generous grant from our National Institute for the Blind. He has shown himself to be a marvellously expert editor, owing to his wide acquaintance with blind folk, their needs and tastes. The magazine has now become a very real link for the blind, for the readers, all of whom consider themselves personal friends of the editor, include many experts in various accomplishments. They help to mitigate the difficulties entailed by the loss of sight by their contributions to its pages. Many of these articles are so important that they are forthwith translated and reprinted in national Braille magazines. Space is also found for translations of stories by the best European authors, such as Kipling.

In connection with the Ligilo there is a body of blind consuls, one in each country, who introduce correspondents, so that all the readers can, at their pleasure, get into touch with each other, irrespective of their language or nationality. Thus many who would have led isolated lives have been encouraged to take greater interest in life, and have become pioneers of education among the blind in countries where little has been done for them.

Scholarships for the Blind

THE next examination for the Gardner Trust Scholarship of the annual value of £40 tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.19, will be held on the 1st and 3rd July. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the examination, must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years and be intending to remain resident. Application should be made to the Principal on or before Saturday, the 17th June, and the forms, properly filled in and completed, returned to the College before the 24th June, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the list.

BLIND CHILDREN'S CHOIR WIN TROPHY

A MIXED choir from the Blind ham Royal Institute for the Blind was awarded the Mary Wakefield Chal-lenge Shield at the Midland Musical Competition Festival at Birmingham, on May 13. Seventy-four choirs, consisting of 37 girls', 20 boys', and 17 mixed choirs, competed for the trophy, but the performance of the winners was outstanding, and in the second test-piece, "The Dream Seller," a two-part song by Markham Lee, they obtained the maximum number of marks, and 94 out of 100 for the rendering of Dunhill's "Moon on the Water." Mr. Edgar Bainton, the adjudicator, said that it was a remarkable achievement for blind children to sing with such perfect ensemble. "I do not think," writes the musical correspondent to the Daily Telegraph, "that I have ever heard any children, in this category of mixed choirs, sing with more lovely tone than did these children of the Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind. conductor himself (Mr. Harry E. Platt) is blind, and played the accompaniment on the piano. The unanimity here was a miracle."

de EMBOSSED LITERATURE POSTAL RATES.

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A S some misunderstanding may arise amongst our readers as to the exact type of literature covered by the Post Office regulations with reference to the special embossed literature postal rates frequently given in these pages and repeated last month, we would draw attention to the fact that all embossed literature, including letters, memoranda and private correspondence, etc., as well as magazines and periodicals in Braille, Moon, or other embossed types, if sent through the post at the special rates quoted, must strictly conform to the regulations given last month.



WHEREVER there is endeavour to do good there is happiness; wherever there is desire to achieve a definite object for the sheer joy of accomplishment, there success will follow.

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the May Numbers

Progress.—May Day—Electricity—The Government of America—Where Poems were Penned—A Hymn for the Blind—The World's Literary Output— Garden Notes (May)—National Library for the Blind—Our Prize Competitions—Matters of the Moment—The Question-Box—Chess—Our Home Page—Advertisements.

The Literary Journal.—Whenever I see a Grey Horse—An Interior: A Story—The Future—Notes on California—Romance and Realism—National Library for the Blind—Embossed Literature Postal Rates—The Office Cat—Crammer and the Church.

School Magazine. — Embossed Literature Postal Rates
—National Library for the Blind—Cecil Rhodes and
his Country ("My Magazine")—The Strand Maypole
(from "London," by Charles Knight)—The Islands
of the Pacific ("My Magazine")—Queries—Changes
in Bird-life in New Zealand—Biography in Brief:
Francesco Petrarch (1304-1374)—Gases, by E. S.
Grew—Vegetables and Flowers (Poem), by Austin
Dobson—The NohleSikh ("Children's Encyclopædia")
—The Black Rat

Comrades.—Emhossed Literature Postal Rates—King Arthur and his Knights (III): The Vision of SXI Galahad (from the "Children's Encyclopædia") (concluded)—The Tale of the Little Brown Rat (from "Christian Science Monitor")—May Day (English Folksong)—The Fairy Beggar (Tyrolese Folklore)—Jack's Books (Grade I)—Puzzles—A Tragic Story (Poem) (Translated from the German by William Makepeace Thackeray)—In a Tree-Top (from "London Magazine")—The Magic Fiddler of Sicily (from "Children's Encyclopædia.")

Musical Magazine.— Review— A New Book on Players—The Pianoforte of Emmanuel Moor (continued)—Jubilee of the Royal Normal College—Transformation of the Gramophone—The Appeal of Choralism—Correspondence—A Notation of the Future—Music at the National Institute—Embossed Literature Postal Rates—Supplement: Emaile Music Reviews—Inset: Organ, "Rondino in D flat," by W. Wolstenholme; Piano, "Rustic Dance," by H. F. Walling.

Channels of Blessing.—Editorial Notes and Notice.

Abide in Me—Our Paramount Need—Mary at the Grave—The Corn of Wheat Dying—A Canadian Girl's Story—The Word Opened Day by Day—Our Letter from India—A Conference in Poland—The Morning (Sir Arthur Pearson)—Gleanings—The Norris Memorial—The Prayer Union—With Christ in the School of Prayer.

A COLLEGEFORTHEHIGHEREDUCATION
OF BLIND GIRLS has recently been opened under
the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind
at The Cedars, Chorley Wood, Herts., where hlind
and partially blind pupils receive a first-class specialised
education. There are vacancies at the College, and
full particulars as to the curriculum, fees, etc., can
be obtained from the Headmistress, Miss PHYLLIS
MONK, M. A., at the above address.

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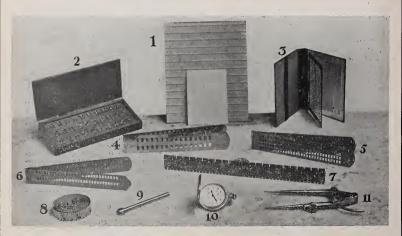
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VOL. VI.-No. 67.

JULY, 1922.

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SOME COMMERCIAL ASPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL TRAINING—II

Address given by Mr. BEN PURSE (Superintendent, Civilian After-Care Department, National Institute for the Blind), at the Spring Course of Lectures for Craft Teachers arranged by the College of Teachers of the Blind



HE important aspects of the subject raised by the title of this address will best be understood, I think, by affording separate treatment of the issues raised as they apply to the two distinct types of training establishments known to us—the residential School with a properly equipped technical department, and the ordinary Workshop, which, by

reason of the exigencies of the situation, receives for industrial training blind people who, owing to a variety of causes, find their way there in adult life.

residential Training School possesses an infinitude of possibilities usually quite outside the scope of the ordinary Workshop, and it is the height of absurdity to pit the one against the other, as is sometimes done for purposes of comparison. Naturally, we expect and require more from the first mentioned type of school, for the teachers are dealing with young people who have had the advantages of a modern education and to whom are given numerous opportunities which rarely, if ever, come within the grasp of those who needs must have recourse to some form of training in adult life. It is comparatively easy for a technical supervisor to impart a knowledge of the quality and description of the material to be used in his craft to the young student. Its origin, growth and general history all tend to quicken and stimulate his interest, and, up to a point, the pressure of economic anxiety does not manifest itself too early in the period of his training.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to visit most of these technical departments, and whatever blemishes they may be said to bear to-day, one remembers only too well what they were before our esteemed Chairman commenced his beneficent work in the special Schools for the Blind. Both teacher and pupil may well be grateful for the fact that we now labour in better and more enlightened times.

I must ask your indulgence for a moment while, with all due deference to the experts assembled here to-day, I endeavour to call attention to what often strikes me as a rather serious defect in some of these training establishments. One would like to see the usual type of technical supervisor possessed of more knowledge of workshop methods and conditions. May I say quite respectfully, that one often feels the craft instructor to be too much of a theorist and too little of the practical workman, with the obvious and necessary result that the trainee is at

a great disadvantage. I know the situation is a delicate and difficult one, for the greatest care must be taken not to introduce these methods before the pupil has had time to assimilate a thorough knowledge of his craft; such a knowledge as will leave him, in point of quality, uninjured by the speeding-up methods and other processes of production known to workshop and factory organisation.

If ever the manual worker is to be a wage-earner in the real sense of the term, there will have to be a much closer cooperation between the technical school and the workshop. Precisely in what way this can best be achieved is not a matter, I think, upon which anyone can dogmatise. It must come as the result of experience, and the practical application of commonsense to every situation as it arises. It is my considered opinion, after much painstaking inquiry and personal observation, that the productivity of the blind worker is registered at a lower level than the combined circumstances would appear to warrant. Unless we are very mindful, the earning of real wages, as understood in the economic sense, will cease to exist, and that would prove to be a calamity of first magnitude, for it would leave the worker without a shred of that independence which he quite rationally prizes, and divest him of every claim to that equality of citizenship to which all rightly directed education and training must teach him to aspire.

I have often felt, when discussing economic problems with my friends, that the worker, generally speaking, is under some delusion in respect of the real value of his work. He oftentimes appears to think that the exigencies of competition and the general trading conditions are matters entirely outside the sphere of his activities; that they do not influence the rates that are to be paid; that, in short, there is some inexhaustible well from which wealth can be extracted quite independent of and apart from the actual labour which he is capable of performing.

I know full well that the craft teacher generally has quite enough duties to perform without being required to impart a knowledge of elementary economics, but it is quite certain that the want of proper direction is responsible to a very large extent for the absurd demands that are frequently made irrespective of the conditions prevailing in the open market. It surely is essential to teach our boys and girls properly to appreciate the value of the material they use, and, as I have already indicated, to foster a spirit of emulation by encouraging them to take more than a superficial interest in the origin and development of their craft. This, and nothing short of this, will dissipate the nonsense which is so frequently being uttered in relation to wage problems.

May I be permitted in this connection to re-state views which I have expressed in a recent publication, for I think that the issues raised are quite germane to the consideration of the important subject before us.

In the blind world we are frequently told that "It is not charity the workers require, but justice; and this justice is best expressed by conditions of regular employment and decent remuneration."

However hackneyed the foregoing observations may be and however improperly comprehended the sentiments are by those who use such phrases, they nevertheless express, with the necessary qualifications, the correct attitude of mind that should be adopted towards the great problem, even by those who are keenly handicapped in the struggle for existence.

If we clearly examine the premises in the light of revealed facts, it will be at once apparent that this view-point, without the qualifications of which we speak, represent nothing but the merest platitude, but that shorn of the verbiage in which the principle is clothed the viewpoint is not essentially unreasonable.

In order that we may the more clearly appreciate the true value and significance of the postulate, we must place in juxtaposition to the notion stated above the following formula, viz.—That having regard to the capacity of the average blind worker and to the character of the industry in which he is engaged, he cannot by his own unaided efforts earn more than sufficient to provide for his own sustenance. Submitted to a close analysis it is doubtful even if the average industrial worker can do this, but for the purposes of the

argument only it is conceded. fore, if this view-point is substantially true, then it follows of necessity that some form of charity must be available to make good any legitimate deficiency that may arise, to enable the individual to discharge the obligations which devolve upon Every added responsibility increases his demand upon the common stock of the necessities of life, and to make good such deficiencies the act of charity, benevolence, philanthropy, or whatever you like to term it, is perforce invoked. such charity means the institution of an act of helpfulness or liberality to the poor in the ordinary acceptation of the word, it must carry with it a much wider interpretation in the economic sense, and it is to this aspect of the matter that we must here confine our attention and treatment.

Let us look at the formula again for a moment:—" Having regard to the capacity of the average blind worker and to the character of the industry in which he is engaged, he cannot by his own unaided efforts earn more than sufficient to provide for his own sustenance."

If we examine the laws governing wealth production, it will be at once apparent that any individual claiming the rank of citizenship must either be a wealth producer or an instrument or agency whose functions are directed to the production of wealth, and it will be at once conceded that if he is to discharge the obligations of citizenship he must not only be able by his own productive activities to earn sufficient for his own needs, but be capable also of so energising as to secure such a margin of wealth as to minister to the needs of those who are dependent upon him. Every citizen, therefore, who fails to comply with these salient conditions imposes a toll on the rest of the community, and if society permits him to exist it does so purely as an act of charity or benevolence.

It may be that some of our friends will not find this process of reasoning quite to their taste, but the fact remains that in this work-a-day world you either have to exist upon the result of your own energies or, in order to live, you impose a toll upon some other man's labour.

If the blind industrial worker had exclusively to rely upon his bare capacity for production and the wages conditioned entirely as a result of such capacity, he would undoubtedly have a very bad time. It is because of the fact that supplementary aid is available that his condition to-day is what we find it to be. It is admitted unreservedly that his standard of life ought and must be improved, but no useful purpose is served by attempting to throw dust in the eyes of people by the enunciation of the view that he can, under any condition of organised commercial enterprise, win for himself such a standard of life as is essential, by the exercise of his own unaided productive capacity.

It is distasteful to be classified as a recipient of charity, and with that viewpoint I entirely concur, but the greater our activities in the future in the direction of efficient industrial training the less need will there be to rely upon the instrument of benevolence. In proportion as the industrial worker becomes speedy and efficient, in like proportion will the need for organised charity be diminished, but it is inconceivable that it will ever be possible wholly to disregard some form of philanthropic activity. Whether the act of benevolence emanates from private individuals, from the voluntary institutions, from the municipalities, or from the State, it is not rendered less an act of charity because of the medium employed for its administration, and, therefore, my conclusion is that while we are justified in striving to make every member of the blind community as independent as is possible, it will always be necessary to make good his handicap by providing the material things which his labour value fails to secure, and the fact that you must make such provision, I repeat, invokes an act of charity or benevolence.

While I have no desire unduly to labour the main contentions here stated, it is of prime importance that our exact position should be properly understood. Therefore, at the risk of being considered somewhat tedious and prolix, I venture further to amplify the opinions expressed above. Perhaps the following method will best illustrate what I have already been striving to convey.

"A" is a sightless industrial worker of average capacity. By his industry he is able to comply with the conditions of our formula; that is, by his own unaided efforts he can give such labour value as yields to him in the form of real wages an amount sufficient to secure a minimum standard of life. Improving his knowledge by workshop experience "A" becomes a better equipped artisan and his productivity is somewhat accelerated, but only to the extent of enabling him to provide more adequately for his own personal Eventually, however, our workman marries and for a limited time, perhaps because of the fact that his partner is also a wage earner, his economic status is correspondingly improved. But this in the majority of cases is only a temporary condition, for in the natural course of things the time arrives when the woman is no longer economically free and must depend entirely upon her husband for subsistence, which in itself adds an additional responsibility and depletes his purchasing power. Not only so, however, but every added responsibility brings into play additional and important factors, for the children born of such a union must necessarily lower the general standard of life and impose anxiety upon the breadwinner, for the process results in reducing the economic status of the family to a level where life becomes almost intolerable.

This assumption is based on the fundamental notion that no additional help is forthcoming to the individual apart from his own economic worth. In the past these conditions were only too numerous. They exist to-day in a modified form, but with this essential difference: that whereas formerly the scantiest piecework conditions prevailed, to-day no one who really counts is satisfied to pay even much higher rates without having regard to the fact that further supplementary assistance must be provided. "A" may not receive help so substantially as his circumstances warrant, but it is at least satisfactory to realise that the conception of his need is recognised and that efforts-almost titanic efforts-are being made to bring to him the succour which everyone recognises should be available. The principle of active help and co-operation is at work in every decent agency throughout the country, and will find its fulfilment only in proportion as we are determined to revolutionise the old order of things.

Thus the final conclusion to which I am irresistibly drawn as a result of my process of reasoning, is that in the sphere of industrial employment the earnings of blind workers must be considerably augmented if they are to enjoy a rational existence. To dub them the recipients of charity is, to say the least of it, not the kindliest method of conveying the idea that the instrument of benevolence must be made to yield to them an agreed amount either in money or in kind, represented by an assessment of their incapacity.

In like manner, also, such catch phrases as the one alluded to above will be found to be equally misleading. If they are uttered in ignorance one may at least reasonably hope that the growth of intelligence among the workers will teach them the folly of a mere dependence upon

meaningless platitudes.

So far, apart from generalisations, I have referred more particularly to those Institutions that have well equipped technical training departments, for as I have already stated we naturally expect better results from such than is possible where adults are received for short courses of training in some branch of a handicraft. The instructor has to labour under great disadvantages in these cases and without the ultimate satisfaction of knowing that the trainee will be a craftsman in any real sense of the term. The teacher who knows the problem fully realises that economic pressure is such as to necessitate the trainee being placed under wage conditions as speedily as practicable, and that which he might otherwise strive to inculcate must perforce be sacrificed, so that even when a moderate wage earner is turned out the teacher is not happy, because he feels how much more could have been accomplished had it not been for the fact that both he and his pupil are victims of economic compulsion.

Perhaps one of the greatest difficulties with which this type of instructor has to dcal is the man or woman from 35 to 50 years old, and, unfortunately, by reason of the incidence of blindness, these cases are more numerous than we are apt to think.

Since we have every reason to feel grateful to the ophthalmologist and others for

the successful diminution of blindness in child life, this aspect of the problem to which I have just alluded is bound to reveal itself more in time, and having regard to the intensive form of competition to which the Institutions must look forward in the near future, one is fearful of what is likely to ensue unless more is done to increase—and that appreciably—the choice of occupation.

Having regard to the results attained, it is more than doubtful whether the State and the Local Authorities are justified in spending large sums of money on the training of persons between the ages named (35 to 50, years), and every time one has to prefer such applications this conviction is borne in more irresistibly upon us. It is certain, however, that in all such circumstances the crafts to be selected should be as simple as possible, and those most easily acquired if the results are in any degree to be worth the effort that has to be made. In any circumstances, however, one would like to see a well-equipped research and inventions bureau set up in order that the avenues of possible training and employment can be thoroughly explored and developed.

Before concluding this address, there is yet another phase of the matter to which I would respectfully invite your attention.

All experience and knowledge has led us to conclude that the output of the average blind worker is from 35 to 50 per cent. lower than that of the normal craftsman employed in the same industry. I was very much interested and surprised lately to receive a most illuminating letter from a German correspondent, Direktor Perls, of the great firm of Siemens, of Berlin. This gentleman informs me that they employ in their various factories 76 blind workers, who are engaged operating a great variety of machines forming part of the immense electrical plant with which these factories are equipped. For example, they are employed on drilling machines, fraising machines, speed cutting machines, friction presses with work screws, hand presses, half-automatic drilling and fraising machines, turners' lathes, etc., etc. Of course, it has to be remembered that special care is taken to fit these machines with protective devices, and we

are informed by the authority just quoted that there has never been an accident.

The difficulty against which we have to contend in this country is the Employers' Liability Act, but we are advised that precisely the same laws obtain in Germany; but owing to the special devices that have been placed on the machines, both the Government inspectors and the trade unions are now convinced that no harmful results can ensue, and there is, therefore, no objection to the employment of blind workers; as a matter of fact, we are told that they are now being received into the ordinary trade union organisations.

It will be remembered that under the special German law introduced as a result of war conditions, every large employment agency is required to employ at least 2 per cent. of the disabled men of that country. This statutory regulation is not confined merely to the war disabled, but is a general provision meant to provide a part solution of a great social problem.

The particular point on which I desire your attention is this: I am informed by Direktor Perls that the productivity of the blind men employed in these factories is equal to that of the average man employed in the same craft. The Bosch Magneto Company, of Berlin, employ 25 blind workers, and we are informed that their rate of productivity is 5 per cent. lower than that of the ordinary worker. are very valuable developments which merit our closest attention in the future. and in my opinion may be found to be of practical application here, if our business men are not too conservative to afford the idea reasonable consideration and trial.

Much more could be said and written upon this all-absorbing topic, but I am afraid that I have perhaps kept you longer than I ought already, so that I must now conclude.

No body of men and women had ever entrusted to them a greater task than has been bequeathed to you—no body of men and women had ever reposed in them duties more sacred and obligations more far-reaching than the charge that is committed to your care—no body of men and women ever more loyally rose to the exigencies of the situation than you have done during the past few years. It is a great joy to know and to feel this and to

be able before all men to bear such testimony, and that with an unstinted measure of praise. Whatever the future may hold in store for you, of one thing we are quite certain—that your devotion to the cause you serve, your fidelity and belief in the verities of education and all its practical possibilities and noblest ideals, will find you prepared to welcome with enthusiasm any development, any innovation that will tend to increase the economic utility of those whom it is your privilege and pleasure to instruct.

All this and more we know, so that we are able to look forward with confidence

to the future.

"Tis we ourselves, each one of us, who must keep watch and ward over the fairness of the earth, and each with his own soul and hand do his due share therein, lest we deliver to our sons a lesser treasure than our fathers left to us."

BLIND VIOLINIST'S CONTINENTAL TOUR



R. ERNEST WHITFIELD, the well-known violinist, has returned from a successful concert-tour in Austria, Italy and Germany, where his fine interpretation of the works of British and foreign composers met with the keenest appreciation. It is gratifying to be able to record that from a people as musically discriminating as the Austrians

Mr. Whitfield's reception was particularly cordial. This we gather from his own account of his tour, and also from the numerous press notices, which include those written by some of the best-known musical critics of the day. On the Continent it is customary for such notices to be signed by their writers, whose status is of a high grade and whose opinions are of great value.

In introducing to his audiences the works of modern British composers, such as those of John Ireland, Edward Elgar and Arnold Bax, Mr. Whitfield may be regarded in the light of a pioneer, and *The Beacon* is proud to think that it is from a blind man that Austrians, Italians and Germans alike have been assisted to

appreciate the value of modern English music. Besides the composers mentioned above, he delighted his Viennese audiences by his rendering of César Franck's Sonata in A major, the latter being performed for the first time in the Austrian capital. In Berlin his performances included sonatas by Mozart and Brahms, whilst he introduced his audiences to the Sonata (1916) of Frederick Delius.

The fact that Mr. Whitfield came to Berlin as a perfect stranger—and, moreover, an Englishman—and received so cordial a reception, is indeed a triumph. The Neue Berliner Nachrichten writes as follows:—

"Whitfield is a violinist of excellent parts. His tone is full and powerful; his technique masterly this playing is absolutely clean, even in the most difficult harmonics. He plays his Mozart as he should be played, approaches a modern work (Delius) with especial love and understanding, but in Brahms he surpassed himself. It seemed as if he displayed greater verve in playing Brahms, as if this composer's amplitude appealed to the healthy temperament of the violinist."

In Florence Mr. Whitfield's reception was equally cordial, and he obtained the praise of so discriminating a musical critic as Pizetti, who wrote in La Nazione:—

"A most excellent concert, remarkable both for the quality and the variety of programme and the ability of the performers. . . Ernest Whitfield, the possessor of remarkable gifts and power of interpretation, gave together with Mario Castelnuovo a performance which was alike delicate and spirited, of Lekeu's Sonata and several short violin pieces."

That Mr. Whitfield conquered his audiences purely on the merits of his work (the fact of his blindness was not disclosed) is a matter for congratulation, and blind musical students who may consider the memorising of long concertos and sonatas an almost impossible feat, should take heart of hope on learning what he has accomplished. It may be of interest to our readers to hear that Mr. Whitfield appeared at the first monthly concert instituted by the National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street.

Mr. Whitfield has booked a number of future engagements on the Continent.



No one who has not a complete know-ledge of himself will ever have a true understanding of another.—*Novalis*.

2 minimum 5

IS A FURTHER ADAPTATION OF BRAILLE NECESSARY?



N Friday, May 26th, a conference organised by Mr. Walter Bowen was held in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind, to consider the desirability of advocating a more scientific adaptation of the Braille System to meet the requirements of blind students.

Washington Ranger,

D.C.L., was in the chair, "in his private capacity—not," as he remarked, "as Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind." He explained that the Institute had granted the use of the Hall for the discussion of this subject because of the interest which they took in all matters put forward with a view to furthering the interests of the blind, but that he himself had no intention of committing the Institute to an expression of opinion for or against the sub-When this was iect under discussion. first mooted several people wrote to him in a state of alarm, fearing that it was proposed to interfere with the existing Grade II. As he himself understood the project the intention was to effect something in the nature of an extension of Grade II for the use of students, whilst the Grade remained untouched for the general reader. Such a revision might prove to be of inestimable value to blind students; it might, on the other hand, prove valueless and be neglected within a year. He himself had nothing but goodwill for the project.

The motion then proposed by Mr. T. H. Tylor, Balliol College, Oxford, and representative of the Henry Fawcett So-

ciety, was as follows:-

"That the present system known as Official Grade II does not adequately meet the requirements of the blind student, and that the present time is opportune for a more scientific adaptation of the Braille system."

Having paid a graceful tribute to the brilliant academic career of the Chairman. and alluded to the lamented death of Sir Arthur Pearson, Mr. Tylor pleaded his cause in a very able speech. He spoke of the invaluable aid rendered to blind students by Grade II, and stated that the word "inadequacy" used in this connection was purely a relative term. The requirements of the blind student with regard to reading were very much greater than those of the ordinary reader. seemed desirable that the enormous pile of embossed literature which met his needs at the present moment should be reduced in bulk without entailing the sacrifice either of speed or of clarity of expression. Mr. Tylor warmly praised the efforts made by the National Institute for the Blind and the National Library for the Blind, whose voluntary writers were trying to keep pace with the requirements of blind students. Could not a system be formed which would maintain all the merits of Grade II whilst diminishing its bulk? Every scientific experiment should be resorted to which could produce quality and save space.

Speaking personally, Mr. Tylor said he had very little fault to find with Grade III. As a representative of the Henry Fawcett Club he was opposed to it on the score of ambiguity. The extension he had in mind could be effected on the basis of Grade II by increasing the number of contractions without increase of ambiguity.

Mr. Walter Bowen, who seconded the resolution, said that most students of scientific subjects required at least eight or ten text-books for reference purposes. He himself had required eight, and these represented some 100 Braille volumes. How much easier it would be for the blind student to obtain access to 50 rather than to 100 Braille volumes, all of which had

to be hand-printed, bound, despatched, and then stored by the student? Grade II was a contracted form of Braille capable of extension. There was yet space for some 490 further contractions. The scheme was one which students all over the United Kingdom were anxious to see realised.

Mr. Ford, the oldest worker in the Stereotyping Department of the National Institute, then moved an amendment to effect the following alteration in the words of the resolution: "The present time is opportune for a more comprehensive list of contractions applicable to scientific books." This amendment was rejected later in the afternoon.

Captain Ian Fraser observed that he was at that conference in two capacities, firstly as a student, and secondly as Chairman of the Inventions and Research Committee of the National Institute for the Blind. Should the scheme now under discussion bear fruit it would in all probability take effect through the medium of the two great producing houses in the Braille world-the National Institute for the Blind and the National Library for the Blind. Whilst admiring the broad aspect of Mr. Tylor's speech, he objected to the words, "the present Braille system is inadequate." A short time ago he himself introduced a small-type system which had met with great approval. The characters in this type occupied seveneighths of the size of the characters employed a year ago. This added to the speed of reading whilst it effected an appreciable reduction of space. He himself was opposed to the employment of further contractions and abbreviations. were many people not law students who yet wished to read law-books; the same fact applied to subjects such as massage, electricity, and so forth. These people would be debarred from reading such books if they had not previously studied the extended system. The system in use to-day of abbreviating special words frequently recurring in scientific books appeared to meet all requirements (he gave as an example the outline $m \ c \ l$ for muscle in the study of Massage). It seemed advisable to have special codes for special subjects, and by simply reading over a

code in the front page of a book the whole would be made clear.

As Chairman of the Committee which would shortly be called upon to consider this matter he would have much pleasure in considering Mr. Bowen's suggestion of an extended Grade II.

Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General, National Institute for the Blind, then warned his hearers against making a fetish of space-saving. The Americans, with whom we were trying to co-operate, were working in the direction of fewer contractions. Should we increase the number of our contractions, we would drift further from uniformity and endanger the exchange of books with America. He said that every additional contraction inflicted a further tax on the memory. The present method of preparing a list of special contractions in special books was excellent and in his judgment fully met the demand for space-reducing in special books. It was, he said, difficult to obtain the services of volunteer subscribers largely on account of the intricacy of the Braille system. The inclusion of a large number of additional contractions would deter volunteers from joining the Manuscript Department of the National Institute for the Blind. He saw no reason why abbreviations should not be used more extensively; the outline of the word was an aid to memory. Any further space-saving should, in the speaker's opinion, be effected by mechanical means in the printing of Braille. He hoped that some day Braille would be written in quite miniature characters which would (so to speak) be magnified when they passed under the finger.

Mr. Dixson said that the provision of contractions was an extremely difficult matter. He would like to know how much space such new contractions were likely to save, and he inquired if there were any system of small-character Braille which could be used successfully by handwriters.

Mr. Merrick considered the present an inopportune time for adding to the list of contractions, which would save little space and inflict a heavy burden upon the memory. He advocated the use of Grade II for students and the provision of special contractions for special books.

Other speakers followed, and the resolution having been passed, a further resolution to the effect that "Mr. Bowen be asked to form a committee to give effect to the resolution which had been passed that afternoon," was proposed by the Rev. J. L. Sowden, seconded by Mr. Walter Dixson, and passed nem. con.

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THE London County Council have issued the following circular letter:—

County Hall,

Spring Gardens, S.W.I.

Purchase of Stores, etc.

I have to inform you that the Council

has passed the following resolutions:—
(a) That arrangements be made, on request, for the supply, through the Stores Department of the Council, of printing, stationery, office requisites and other miscellaneous requirements of institutions for the blind within or adjacent to the Administrative County of London, provided that the usual charges shall be made by the Council in respect of administrative expenses and that these arrangements shall only operate in the case of charitable associations or institutions which, if required to be registered under Section 3 of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, have been so registered.

(b) That the Stores and Contracts Committee be authorised to obtain from institutions for the blind within the Administrative County of London articles such as brushes, brooms, and mats, manufactured in such institutions, provided that the prices to be paid therefore be fixed by, or under the authority of, the Stores and Contracts Committee, and that an undertaking be given on behalf of the institution that the work will be done by blind workers with as little sighted assistance as possible.

As regards arrangements under resolution (a), application should be made to the Chief Officer of Stores, London County Council, New County Hall, S.E. 1, and as regards (b) the authorities of institutions desiring to be considered in connection with the supply of goods to the Council should also communicate with the Chief Officer of Stores.

(Sgd.) JAMES BIRD, Clerk of Council.

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MEMBERS of the Seaford Branch of the British Legion attended at Queen's Hall, Seaford, on May 30th, to listen to an address given by Captain E. B. B. Towse, V.C., Vice-Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, who urged upon his audience the duties of comradeship.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

DEVONPORT AND WESTERN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE BLIND.—The purchase of Manor Lodge, Stoke, with three acres of ground, as a new home for blind men and women, is the outstanding feature of the 62nd annual report of this Society.

R OYAL GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.—According to the 94th annual report of this institution, 299 blind persons came under its care during the past year. Of these 224 received salaries, wages, augmentation wages, and other charitable grants, to the amount of £19,796. The sales showed a decrease of slightly over £7,000 owing to trade depression.

R OYAL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY FOR THE BLIND, BRISTOL.—The work of this School includes the education of blind children, workshops, home teaching, and a hostel for blind women, provided by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Wills. In their 129th annual report the Committee state that a total of 682 blind persons were cared for in these various branches during the year. The average number of pupils at the School was 112. Ninety persons were employed at the workshops, and sales to the value of £8,296 were effected.

Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind.—At a meeting of the Committee of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind the resignation of Miss Mitchell, the hon. secretary, was received with very great regret. Miss Mitchell has been for sixteen years hon. secretary of the Institution and twenty-two years a member of the Committee. A suitable resolution setting forth her great service to the blind was ordered to be entered on the minutes. Miss Mitchell was persuaded to retain her seat on the Committee. Mrs. S. Denby was elected to fill the position vacated by Miss Mitchell.

NORTHERN COUNTIES BLIND SOCIETY.

—The retirement is announced of Mr. Henrick von Neiderhausern, who was

for many years attached to this Society. His work in the North of England, which was commenced in 1873, first in Durham, then in North Shields, included the formation of an excellent library for the blind and the establishment of workshops. At the annual meeting of the Society, held recently, the Chairman alluded in fitting terms to Mr. von Neiderhausern's long connection with and splendid services in the cause of the blind of the North Country.

THE BARCLAY WORKSHOP FOR BLIND WOMEN report that the year just ended is remarkable for a large increase in the number of women employed. Thirty-eight blind women are now at the workshop (27 weavers, 1 seamstress, 1 knitter, 1 assistant and 8 pupils), as compared with 18, 21 and 28 in the three preceding years. The following sales were effected:—Woven goods to the value of £3,555; knitted goods to the value of £566. As our readers are aware, the workshop has amalgamated with the Eyes to the Blind Society, 17, Callow Street, Chelsea, S.W.3, which will now become the knitting branch of the Barclay Workshop.

PLIND RELIEF AND VISITING SOCIETY FOR BRIGHTON, HOVE AND DISTRICT.—Founded in 1862 by the late william Moon, LL.D., this Society became affiliated to the National Institute for the Blind in 1918. On its register there are now 253 persons, exclusive of cases in institutions. In 1920 a training centre was established which has now completed its first full year's work. By its means three pupils have been placed on a wage-earning basis, and, together with nine others, are being assisted in their effort to earn a livelihood. Eleven pupils are now under training. Sales and work to the value of £115 were executed during the year, and a grant of £340 allotted to the Society by the National Institute for the Blind.

WE are informed that the title of "Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind," at Norwich, has been altered to "Norwich Institution for the Blind."

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND EXAMINATION, 1922

THE results of the College of Teachers of the Blind examination, held at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W.3, on 30th and 31st May, 1922, were as follows:—

William Banaham—Honours in Theoretical Braille and Arithmetic.

Gertrude A. Dakevne—Honours in Theo-

retical Braille.
Frances W. Davidson—Honours in Hand

Knitting.
Lillie E. Jackson—Honours in Arith-

metic and Hand Knitting.

Kathleen Mack—Honours in Hand Knitting.

Emily Maylor—Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, and Hand Knitting.

Gertrude Pettler—Honours in Practice of Teaching.

Elizabeth Sarson—Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, and Hand Knitting.

Alice M. Stringer—Honours in Practical Braille and Hand Sewing.

Kathleen E. Utting—Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, and Arithmetic.

Since the foundation of the College the number of candidates, including the above, who have received certificates is as follows:—

 Men
 ...
 46

 Women
 ...
 143—189

 Blind
 ...
 25

 Sighted
 ...
 164—189

WE learn that Stanley Kenworthy, aged 14, a blind pupil at Henshaw's Institution for the Blind, Manchester, has been awarded the first prize for pianoforte playing at the Alderley Edge Musical Festival, Cheshire. The work selected was Debussy's Arabesque in G, and the adjudicator was Mr. H. Plunket Greene. Last February the same pupil won a first prize at the Hazel Grove Festival.



PITCH upon that course of life which is the most excellent, and custom will render it the most delightful.—Pythagoras.



EDUCATION OF THE BLIND

BOARD OF EDUCATION CIRCULARS





HE following is a copy of a letter and circular sent to Managers of Institutions for the Blind recognised under Grant Regulation No. 21, from the Secretary, Medical Department, Board of Education, 5—6, Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C.2:—

Circular 1264. 29th May, 1922.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose for the information of the Managers a copy of a Circular which the Board have addressed to Local Education Authorities for the purposes of Part II of the Education Act, 1902, on the subject of the training of Blind Students. The Board have decided that they will not offer any objection to the admission of additional students up to the limits of the accommodation at present provided at this institution, and that attendances made by students (other than those sent by Local Education Authorities) will be taken into account for Grant under Article 10 of the Board's Regulations for the Training of Blind, etc, Students, Higher Education, Grant Regulations No. 21.

While the Board are glad to be able to inform the Managers of this decision, they feel bound to point out that it is essential at the present time that every possible economy should be effected in all branches of expenditure which fall to be met in whole or in part from Public Funds. They must, therefore, request the Managers to give careful consideration to the question of the cost of maintaining this Institution with a view to securing, if possible, some reduction in the amount of the fees at present charged to Local Education Authorities and other Bodies or private persons in respect of students attending the courses. The marked decrease which has recently occurred in the cost of living should enable considerable savings to be made, particularly in Residential Institutions, and with due regard to organisation further economies could no doubt be effected. The Board would be glad if the Managers would review the whole situation and, unless the fees have recently been reduced, would in due course submit their proposals for lowering the charges to be made in respect of Students admitted to this Institution.

> I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR H. WOOD.

Circular to Part II. Local Education Authorities. Circular 1263, 29th May, 1922.

Sir

I am directed to state for the information of the Authority that the Board have had under consideration the question of the amount of expenditure by Local Education Authorities during the current financial year which they will be able to take into account for Grant in respect of the education, traing and maintenance of Blind persons over 16 years

The Board recognise the importance of enabling blind children leaving Special Schools to obtain a further period of education and technical training such as will enable them to become in large measure self-supporting in those branches of employment which are open to them, and they are anxious that, so far as is consistent with present economic conditions, there should be no curtailment of the opportunities for training provided in the Institutions recognised under the Board's Regulations for the Training of Blind, etc., Students, Grant Regulations No. 21. In order that these children and other blind persons who require similar training may not be deprived of these advantages the Board have decided that, within the limits of the accommodation provided in recognised Institutions, and subject to the over-riding limit on the total expenditure of Local Education Authorities which can be recognised for Grant (paragraph 5 of Cmd. 1638), they will not place any restrictions on the amount of expenditure by Local Education Authorities on this service which they will recognise for Grant. It will accordingly be open to the Authority to contribute at a rate not exceeding that approved by the Board for each Institution under Article 3 (c) of Grant Regulations No. 21 towards the education, training and maintenance of any blind students resident in their area for whom a place can be found in an Institution recognised by the Board.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant, A. H. Wood.

WE are asked to announce that the Jubilee gift to Miss Amelia Campbell will be presented by Lady Campbell at the Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood, on Saturday, 8th July. The presentation will be made in the College Hall at 4 o'clock, but all subscribers will be welcome from 3 to 6 p.m.

CONTRACTORS

NATIONAL UNION OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL BLIND



HE second annual conference of this Union was held at the Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, on June 2nd and 3rd. At the concluding sessions more openings for blind workers, the abolition of the piece-work system, and pensions of 10s. a week to all blind persons fifty years of age and over who are not liable for in-

come tax, were advocated. The President, Mr. Peter Fairhurst (London),

occupied the chair.

In a paper on "The Abolition of Piecework," Miss D. Cleaver (Regent's Park branch) urged that following a careful and intelligent investigation, a scientific attempt should be made to add to the number of occupations for blind persons. She spoke of the very long hours some blind workers had to labour under the piecework system in order to earn sufficient wages to live. Their health suffered in consequence, and quality of work was frequently sacrificed to output. of the piecework system a scheme should be evolved which would ensure to every capable blind worker in the country a reasonable living wage.

Mr. Ben Purse (Hon. General Secretary), after pointing out the practical difficulties in the way of the complete abolition of the piecework system, suggested that they could do more in getting blind workers into ordinary factories and workshops, as was done, for example, in Voluntary institutions in Germany. England which provided work for the blind were not able to pay a living wage to-day, for they were on the verge of bankruptcy, and he had statistical evidence that that was so. The State must come to the aid of philanthropy in this matter. He wanted to secure a minimum income for all blind workers and

their removal from the arena of competition.

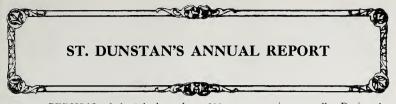
In reply to a Cardiff delegate, who suggested that steps might be taken to copy in England the German firms' example, Mr. Purse said experiments had been tried in London and Birmingham of engaging blind workers on armature winding, but it was found that the wages earned were less than those earned by women in the ordinary industries for the blind. He explained that under the disablement law in Germany employers had to find employment for 2 per cent. of the disabled, whether blinded in the war or not.

A resolution was passed urging that all industrial blind workers should be organised with the object of securing the abolition of the principle of the sub-division of labour wherever practicable, and the substitution of an arrangement under which a maximum income will be secured for every sightless worker. It also urged that in the training of apprentices the whole trade, and not merely a part, should be taught, so that at the end of their period they would be fully qualified journeymen.

It was further decided to approach the Superintendents' Association with a view to the formation of an industrial council to give effect, as far as possible, to the resolution.

The conference instructed the General Secretary to take steps immediately to secure representation of the union on the Central Advisory Committee under the Blind Persons Act, and also urged the branches to take similar action in regard to local committees in their districts.

A further resolution called for an amendment of the Blind Persons Act so as to provide pensions of 10s. weekly to all blind persons fifty years of age and over who were not liable for income tax.





PERUSAL of the 7th Annual Report of St. Dunstan's Hostel and After-Care Organisation brings to our notice two salient facts:—Firstly, that, although the great founder of the organisation has passed away, the work is being carried on in his spirit and there remains "the determination of his men to face the future in his way, and to

maintain to the last the mastery over their many difficulties which he taught them to achieve." Secondly, that, little by little, the work has assumed a new aspect, in that the primary education of the blinded soldiers is gradually giving place to their after-care; in other words, that those who have received their training are now dependent on St. Dunstan's for supervision

of their welfare.

Of the 30,000 cases discharged from the Army with defective vision but a small proportion became blind; in spite of this fact fresh cases are still constantly being admitted into the Hostel. During the period covered by the report 406 men were under training in the workshops and class-When fully trained, the settlement of the blinded soldier comes under This problem is by no consideration. means an easy one, and for some years it caused the settlement organisation very grave anxiety. It was found that the only means of coping with the problem lay in purchasing a certain amount of property, and this was effected at a time when houses were scarce and abnormal in Further, the repair, decoration and equipment of the property to meet the requirements of individual cases entailed considerable outlay. Many properties have been leased to, or are being re-purchased by, the men on reasonable terms, and thus St. Dunstan's finds itself playing the rôle of landlord with nearly 300 tenants on its rent-roll. During the year, April 1st to March 31st, 1922, particulars of 2,026 such properties were obtained, examined and reported upon. In this manner 306 men were provided for during the period under review, and there are now in training 120 men who, together with possible newcomers, must be similarly supplied during the next twelve or eighteen months. By means of the After-Care Organisation men who are engaged in handicrafts are supplied with raw material, their work is supervised, and they are assisted in the marketing of their products. During the past year sales to the value of £14,163 were effected by the Sales Department, and it is interesting to record that in spite of trade depression no single stenographer or telephone operator trained at St. Dunstan's is at the present moment out of work.

An important feature of St. Dunstan's work is the care of the health of the men and of their families. During the year the sum of £5,991 was expended in connection with illness, accidents, medical fees, etc. Special payments to meet special business difficulties totalled £5,958.

In the United Kingdom alone there are 1.436 men on the books of the After-Care Organisation, and many appreciative letters from men who have been trained by and are now pursuing their occupations under the wing of St. Dunstan's are appended to the report. These letters were poultry-farmers, masseurs written by trained under the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind, shorthand-typists, telephonists, boot repairers, joiners, basket- and mat-makers, net-makers, and others. It should be noted that St. Dunstan's annexes at Brighton, Cheltenham, and North Berwick are still open, and attention is called to the very adequate private hospital at 14, Sussex Place. Regent's Park, where 360 out-patients

were examined and 149 patients admitted for treatment or operation during the period under review.

Besides the blinded soldiers and sailors in the United Kingdom it must not be forgotten that practically all the Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and South African men who were blinded in the war passed through St. Dunstan's. On their return to their homes they have taken up the occupations learnt at the Hostel, and what has been said in regard to the success of the blinded men in the United Kingdom applies in full measure to St. Dunstaners overseas. After-Care Organisations have been formed in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and make of St. Dunstan's an Imperial as well as a National Organisation.

LONDON SOCIETY OF ORGANISTS

HE inaugural meeting of the West and North-west Section of the above Society was held, by kind permission, at the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind on Saturday, May 27th, at 3 p.m. The President, Mr. E. Stanley Roper, B.A., Mus.Bac., Organist of the Chapel Royal, St. James's, occupied the chair, and he was supported by Dr. Warriner, Hon. Sec., and other influential members of the Society. The aims and objects of the Society were fully explained by the President, who incidentally referred in felicitous terms to the remarkable qualifications of blind candidates at the higher musical examinations. A number of well-known blind musicians were present, and in addition to those who already belong to the Society quite a number are understood to be contemplating membership of a society which so cordially recognises their ability as organists and extends to them so fraternal a greeting.

The meeting was highly successful, and a gratifying number of applications for membership are already being dealt with. Organists (or choirmasters) desirous of joining the new section are requested to communicate with the Hon. Sec., Mr. Edward Watson, Music Publications Director, National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, W.1, from whom all information may be obtained.

Winchester Competitive Festival

Mr. S. H. Anstey, A.R.C.O., the blind organist and conductor of the Basingstoke Choral Society, has had the distinction of securing for his choir the banner awarded at the Winchester Competitive Festival for their rendering of the old English madrigal, "All creatures now are merry." Mr. Anstey has only recently been appointed conductor, and memorised the madrigal from a Braille copy published by the National Institute for the Blind. The adjudicators were Dr. Adrian C. Boult, Dr. W. G. Whittaker, and Mr. Steuart Wilson.

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ON Wednesday afternoon, June 7th, a large audience assembled at the National Institute for the Blind, when Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus.B., F.R.C.O., the wellknown blind organist, contributed a programme which included the test pieces of the July examination of the Royal College of Organists, special interest centring in the fact that the organ at the National Institute is a replica of that at the Royal College of Organists. Mr. Spanner's fine performance (preceded by analytical notes) was received with enthusiasm by an audience which obviously included a number of blind and sighted candidates for the forthcoming examination,

Mr. H. V. SPANNER has recently been appointed organist and choirmaster of St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Blackheath, S.E., after competition.

As a result of the examination held on Thursday, June 5th, at Clothworkers' Hall, the Fawcett Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to William Henry Coates, Worcester College for the Blind. There were five candidates. Mr. Coates, who was recently awarded the Barker Exhibition at Queen's College, Oxford, goes into residence in October next, and will read for Honours in English Language and Literature.

As many days as we pass without doing some good are so many days entirely lost.—Montaigne.

THE E. W. AUSTIN READING COMPETITION



OR the third year in succession a Reading Competition was held on Saturday, May 27th, at the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, West-This minster. competition, initiated by Mr. Walter H. Dixson, of Oxford, in memory of Miss Austin, and known as the E. W. Austin Memorial Competition, has now become

definitely established as an annual event eagerly anticipated by Braille readers who come from far and near to test the facility of their reading coupled with their elocutionary powers. Interest in the day's proceedings was increased by the innovation of a children's contest. This year the competitors were divided into three classes:-

A. Those who had learnt Braille before the age of 16.

B. Those who had learnt Braille after the age of 16.

C. Children under the age of 15.

From 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. competitors filed in turn into the three rooms set apart for the preliminary readings. The judges in this case were: Mrs. Ellicott, Mr. J. de la Mare Rowley, General Editor, National Institute for the Blind, and Mr. Walter H. Dixson, of Oxford. Those who were considered sufficiently good readers to compete in the final test were required to attend at the Hall of the Library at 3 o'clock, when the official competition took place in the presence of a brilliant company of Braille experts and their sighted friends.

Lord Shaw of Dunfermline was in the chair, and, introducing Lord Frederic Spencer Hamilton, who was to present the prizes, he spoke in eulogistic terms of the latter's book, "Here, There and Everywhere," a passage of which formed an item in the afternoon's reading tests. The

Chairman further said that the National Library was the best library for the blind in the world. It contained 80,000 volumes, and the scope of its work could be gauged by the fact that during a single day no less than 720 volumes had been known to have been despatched from its These volumes were the warehouse. means of bringing sunshine into the lives of many sightless folk.

The competition then took place, Professors Gilbert Murray and A. C. Bradley acting as judges. In Class B only one competitor was left to read the passage from Lord Frederic Hamilton's book alluded to above. The six competitors in Class A were required to read Pitt's Speech to the House of Lords during the American War of Independence and Wordsworth's Sonnet to Milton. children read-with evident enjoymenta passage from Kingslev's "Westward Ho" and "Puck's Song" from "Puck of Pook's Hill," by Kipling. The prizes were then awarded as follows :-

Class A.

First prize (three guineas), Miss M. Tameson.

Second and Third prizes (tie) (11) guineas each), Miss M. Cole and Mr. H.

E. Doggett.

Consolation prizes (5s. each), Miss Ruth Last, Miss Swinney, and the Rev. J. L. Sowden, M.A.

Class B. Prize (two guineas), Mr. W. A. Downing.

Class C. First prize (10s.), Doris Ivens. Second prize (7s. 6d.), Hilda Sage. Third prize (5s.), Frank Duskin. Consolation prize, (box of chocolates),

William Osborne.

(The consolation prizes were the gift of an anonymous donor.)

Lord Frederic Hamilton, though suffering from the effects of a severe attack of congestion of the lungs and consequent loss of voice, presented the prizes with a word of commendation and cheer for each recipient. He expressed surprise at what he termed a "miracle," and said that he was glad to think that those who were condemned to live in darkness possessed the key with which to unlock the door of another world—the world of Knowledge.

A vote of thanks to Lord Frederic and to the judges, proposed by Mr. Walter H. Dixson and seconded by Mr. Guv M. Campbell, brought the proceedings to a successful conclusion.

Much regret was expressed at the absence of Miss Prince, the guiding spirit of the competition and of the library itself, who two days previously had undergone a severe operation, and is now, we are glad to be able to state, making satisfactory progress towards recovery. her absence the day's proceedings were most adequately arranged and carried out by Miss Watson and Miss Pain.



SUMMER courses in Sight-Conservation Class Teaching and Home Teaching of the Blind are announced by the Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. These courses are to be held by Mr. Robert B. Irwin, Supervisor of Classes for the Blind and Sight-Saving Classes in the Public Schools of Cleveland, Ohio, from July 10th to August 18th. A complete description of the courses is to be found in the full bulletin of the Summer Session, obtainable on application to the Secretary, Teachers' College, Columbia University.

THE After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind report that during the month of May 89 fresh cases came under their supervision (59 men and 30 women). Gifts to the number of 47 were provided at a cost of £92 35 9d. The number of visits paid was The amount expended in training 47. fees was £47 4s., in relief £457 4s. 4d., and in relief administered by branches Other grants and pay-£72 17s. 3d. ments amounted to the sum of £200 1s.

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Jones, W. Lewis. King Arthur in History	
and Legend	2 vols.
Lodge, R. Close of the Middle Ages,	
1272-1494	9 vols.
Loyola, Mother M., Welcome	4 vols.
M'Clintock, F. L. Voyage of the "Fox"	
in Search of Franklin and his com-	
panions	6 vols.
Moore, B. Origin and Nature of Life	3 vols.
Tomkinson, W. S. Teaching of English	4 vols.
Walker, E. History of Music in England	8 vols.
GRADE III.	
Strachey, Lytton. Eminent Victorians	4 vols.

(Continued from page if of Cover)

MUSIC

PIANO DUET. First Peer Gynt Suite (4 vols.). E. Grieg. ORGAN. Military Symphony (1st movement). Haydn-

Westbrook.

HARMONIUM.

Scherzo Capriccioso for harmonium and piano. (2 vols.). A. Guilmant. CHURCH MUSIC.

Communion Service in E flat. B. Harwood. SONGS. Recit., Banish your fears. (Hercules) Handel, Air, Begone my fears. (Eli) M. Costa. Recit., Open unto me.

Air, I will extol Thee, O Lord. Up in the morning early. A. C. Mackenzie (arr.) The Virgin's Cradle-Hymn. H. Fryer. 90

NATIONAL Baby Week will this year be held from the 2nd to the 8th July. Council of this organisation call attention to their latest report, issued gratis on application, and also to a number of leaflets and cards suitable for distribution. two lantern lectures, and a new two-reel film entitled "Our Children." For parti-

culars apply the Secretary, Carnegie

House, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

WE have received a notification from H.M. Stationery Office to the effect that the Stationery Office Receiving Depôt, Loman Street, S.E., is now closed to the reception of supplies made on Special Orders. These should in future be made to the following address: The Chief Receiver and Examiner, H.M. Stationery Office, Cornwall House, S.E.

To give one hour of comfort to the victim of adversity, and to cheer with one transient gleam of joy the evening of life, ought surely to be among the pleasures, as they are among the duties of humanity. —Sir W. Drummond.

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BRAILLE MAGAZINES OUR Contents of the June Numbers

Progress.—The Story of Silk—Sir James Barrie and Courage—Poetry and Aviation—The Weather Forecast—Garden Notes (June)—Our Prize Competitions
—National Library for the Blind—Matters of the Moment-The Question-Box-Chess-Our Home Page —Advertisements.

The Literary Journal.—The King's Pilgrimage (Poem)
—History and Fiction—An Eighteenth Century
Miser—A Plea for Profit-Sharing—The Ex-Crown
Prince's Memoirs—Dean Inge on Victorian Greatness National Library for the Blind-Recent Additions to the Massage Library-Scholarships for the Blind-An Ancient University — A Statesman's Reflec-tions—A Trapper's Ways — The World's First Advertisement.

School Magazine.—Embossed Literature Postal Rates Scholarships for the Blind-Dante Alighieri ("My Magazine")—How you should Read a Book, by C. B. Fry—Bees ("Children's Encyclopædia")—Queries—A Handful of Grey Matter ("My Magazine")—Biography in Brief: Vincent de Paul Magazine")—Biography in Brief: Vincent de Faul (1576–1660)—The Pathway of the Wireless Wave ("My Magazine")—A Fable for Youth (from "The Citizen of the World," by Oliver Goldsmith)—Birds and Flying Animals, by Erness Bryant—The Pedlar's Song (Poem), by Sir Henry Newbolt—A Robber's Lesson—Finland, the Land of Heroes and Marchae ("Children's Newpone")—A Soposade Heroines ("Children's Newspaper")—A Sponge's Work

Comrades. - Embossed Literature Postal Rates - The Stared (from "The Rambler" Nature Books)—Piggy-Wiggy (Grade I)—The Brigand's Son (from the French)—Puzzles—The Deaf Ogre, by Christine Chaundler.

Musical Magazine.—The Pianoforte of Emmanuel Moor (concluded)—Our Tuners' Column—Notes and News concerning the Blind—Music at the National Institute—Correspondence—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews—Insets: Recit. and Air, "Sound an Alarm" (Judas Maccabæus), by Handel; Organ, "Fantasia in E," by Osborn.

Channels of Blessing.—Editorial Notes and Notices
—Rejoice with Me—The Thankfulness of Jesus— Notes and Meditations on Church History-Grate-Notes and Meditations on Church Theory—Gratefulness—The Old Brown Root—Youthful Praise—The Word Opened Day by Day—"Watch"—Out Letter from India—Braille Missionary Union—Gleanings—Books for Sale—The Norris Memorial— With Christ in the School of Prayer.

Massage Journal, being the official organ of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs. Official Notices-News in the Massage World-The Official Notices—News in the Massage world—The Value of Massage in Fibrositis, by Thomas Marlin, M.D., D.P.H., D.M.R.E.—The Importance of Physical Fitness for the Professional Woman, by Miss Stansfeld, Bedford Physical Training College—The Objective Study of Neurosis (II) (from "The Lancet"), by F. L. Golla, M.B.Oxon., F.R.C.P. London

The Light-Bringer. — From the Braille Room: Will Everyone Write? — Further Pamphlets to Lend — "The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception" — Animal Karma—A Study in Consciousness, chapter 4— Elementary Theosophy: (6) The Brotherhood of Man—The Work of the Cultural Department, by Weller Van Hook—His Will is our Peace, by Clara M. Codd-The Building of St. Sophia: A Legend-Extracts.

Santa Lucia.- The Little Giants and the Marvellous Things they can Do (Part II) (concluded)—The Great Impersonation, chapters 14-15 (to be continued), by E. Phillips Oppenheim-Answers to Charades of 60 Years Ago-Two Botanical Puzzles-New Air Expresses-Fur and Feathers.

Hampstead Magazine. — Mustard-Pot-Matchmaker, by Gilbert Frankau—A Remarkable Short Story: Inspiration, by Jean Howard—How to Play the Piano—Curious Whitsun Customs—Passion Play now on-Best Stories.

The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type). - The House that Fought-Embossed Literature Postal Rates-Royal Princesses and Etiquette-Feeding the House of Commons-The Origin of Well-known Phrases-Gunpowder Cure.

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world day by day, keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. Subscription, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.

Nuggets.-One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs, as well as a Sporting Page. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 2d. per copy (3d. post free), 8s. per year (inland and abroad).

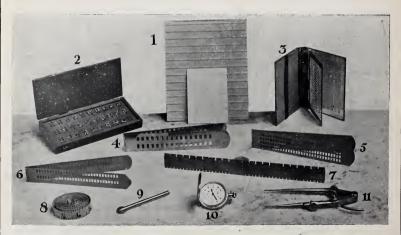
DAVID HILL MEMORIAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, HANKOW, CHINA.—Wanted, a TRAINED TEACHER to take charge of this School for Blind Boys. Essential that the appointment should be held by one who has a sense of missionary vocation and is in full sympathy with evangelical Christian truth. Actual membership in the Wesleyan Methodist Church is not essential. Full particulars can be obtained from Rev. C. W. Andrews, 24 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



GAMES FOR THE BLIND.—Draughts, Russian Fives, Chess, Chess and Draughts Outfit, Cheery
Families, Bridge and Whist Cards, Patience Cards.



APPARATUS FOR THE BLIND.—1 Correspondence Tablets; 2 Braillette Board; 3 Pocket Postcard Writing-Frame; 4 Two-lined Pocket-guide for Giant Dots; 5 Four-lined Pocket Frame; 6 Two-lined interlining Pocket Guide; 7 Brass Foot Rule; 8 Tape Measure; 9 Spur-wheel; 10 Braille Watch; 11 Compasses.



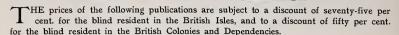
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications



MUSIC

(CHURCH-													PRI	
5459	"As the Ea	rth Bri	ngeth For	th her	Bud"	(Harv	est An	them),	by A.	H. Bre	wer (V	ertical	Score) .	^{s.}	
5460	"The Wood	is and e	very Sw	eet-sme	elling	Tree"	Harve	st Ant	hem), t	y J. E	. West	(Vertic	al Score).		
5461 5462	"Evening S	ie Facu	" (Chorn	(c) No	21 of	"The I	core) Vectial	h " bar	Handel		ical Sc			3	
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3103	and Amer	n moon	the Hym	n of th	e Epir	hanv."	"Sch	erzo in	F." by	Guiln	nant.O	2 16 (F	Bar by Ba	e r) 3	0
5464	"Cantilène	in A fla	t," by H.	A. W1	heeldo	n (Bar	by Ba	r)				٠		2	
5465	"Bohemesq	ue," by	W. Wols	stenhol	me (N	ational	Institu	ute for	the Bli	nd Ed	ition) (Bar by	Bar) .	2	0
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5466	"Melodious										•••			. 7	5
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5469	"Berceuse i										•			2	
5470	"Polonaise													2	5
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5472	" Night in M	lay," by	y S. Palm	gren (Bar by	Bar)	•••	•••	•••		•••			2	0
5473	ONGS— "Love went	A Dia		Para mile 1	Duidee	/F . C		. Tr. 11.	to E'		- 1\			•	
5474	"I Pitch my	r Lonel	ing, by i	n at Ni	oht'' l	OV F C	onipas	E flat	· Com	nace C	ai)			2 ., 2	
5475	"The Lotos	Flower	" and "	The Co	ttage."	bv Scl	human	n (Con	npass.	C to G	10			2	
5476	"The Robin										,			. 2	
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5477	"Come, Con	ne, Sing	ging" (So	prano a	and Co	ontralto), by ?	ľschaik	owsky	(arr.	by A. J	. Silve	r)	. 2	0
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5341	A Labrador	Doctor	(Grenfel	h									Vol. 1	15	10
5342	"	"	"										Vol. 2		10
5343	11	11	,,										Vol. 3		10
5344	71	11	**			•••	•••		•••			• • • •	Vol. 4	15	10
						TRA	AVEL	,							
5315	A Tour in M	Iongolia	(Bulstro	de)									Vol. 1	14	10
5316	" "	"	,,,	-									Vol. 2	14	10
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F you have gazed into the flaming dawn,

And in that gazing felt your strength reborn;

Or laved your jaded soul at twilight hour

In magic half-light, full of healing power—

If you can count, in irksome solitude,

As solid joys, great pictures you have view'd;

Or know, in lonely watches of the night, The soul-relief of "turning-up" the lightIf you enjoy the daily commonplace

Of looking frankly in a comrade's face; Or daily feast your eyes with hungry gaze

Upon your little son who runs and plays—

If, in mere seeing, half your life is made—

Then think on those who can't; and lend your aid.

W. H. J., S. Michael's School for the Blind, Kemmendine,

Burma.

VOL. VI.—No. 68.

AUGUST, 1922.

PRICE 3D.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND



HE annual report of the National Institute for the Blind, for the year ending March 31st, 1922, contains matter of especial interest. In addition to a comprehensive account of its farreaching activities, a brief sketch of its history demonstrates the marvellous development of an institution now the largest of its kind throughout the world.

Readers will possibly recall the fact that in 1868 the British and Foreign Blind Association for promoting the Education and Employment of the Blind came into being under the direction of Dr. T. R. Armitage, with the primary object of improving embossed literature for the blind. At that time the methods of educating the blind were in a state of chaos. Conflicting opinions regarding the various systems of embossed type were rife, and portions of the Bible had been printed in at least five different systems. The British and Foreign Blind Association, however, succeeded, under the influence of Dr. Armitage, in bringing about the adoption of the Braille system in England, and at once became a centre for supplying printed books, maps, music, frames for the writing of Braille, and other educational apparatus for the blind, whilst a system of Braille music notation was introduced. In 1902 the organisation was transformed from a semiprivate undertaking into an incorporated

society, and with the removal of the Association to 206, Great Portland Street in the same year, practically all the work was carried on under the same roof. The work now grew apace, and when, in 1908. Mr. Henry Stainsby was appointed Secretary-General, it began to assume great propor-The staff then consisted of some fifty-four members; these were rapidly added to, and it was soon discovered that the premises were entirely inadequate for the accumulating duties of the Association. The erection of new and extended premises had been contemplated, and under the chairmanship of the famous ophthalmic surgeon, the late Professor Malcolm M. McHardy, F.R.C.S., predecessor of Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., the present Chairman of the Council, the building fund was started with a special donation from a well-wisher of £9,000.

On the 19th March, 1914, the premises at 224-6-8, Great Portland Street, were opened by their Majesties the King and Queen, and the title of the organisation was changed to that of the National Institute for the Blind. In the preceding year Sir Arthur (then Mr.) Pearson was elected a member of the Council, and in 1914 he became its Hon. Treasurer, and succeeded in raising a net sum of approximately £60,000 to complete the cost of the building and equipment of the new premises. Work on a far more extended scale was now undertaken, the embossing

plant was improved, and the Council were greatly assisted financially in their efforts to provide the blind with books by the generosity of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the Dickens Fellowship, and other organisations and individuals. In 1914, on the death of Miss Adelaide E. C. Moon, the Moon Society for Embossing Literature for the Blind in Moon Type came under the management of the Institute. The Home Teaching Society for the Blind became affiliated in 1915, and in the same year the National Institution for Massage by the Blind was incorporated in the Institute.

At the present day the activities of this Institute affect all classes and conditions of the blind population, from the blind baby to those who lose their sight late in life, and the Council emphasise the fact that unless continuous and generous financial support is immediately forthcoming, very serious retrenchments will become necessary.

The principal events of the year include:—

- (1) The establishment of a closer relationship between the various institutions for the blind in London by the efforts of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, which is conducted by the Institute. During the fifteen months of its existence a total of £20,800 was distributed amongst the ten workshops and institutions which come within its compass.
- (2) The allocation of grants to the amount of £40,740 amongst institutions for the blind in all parts of the country.
- (3) The publication of the total results of the Yorkshire Campaign, whereby the net sum of £54,545 was distributed amongst ten institutions for the blind, whilst a full year's maintenance grant, running concurrently with the campaign and amounting to £2,000, was paid to the Hull and East Riding Institution for the Blind.
- (4) The consideration of a Home Workers' Scheme for the Metropolitan District south of the Thames, and for the counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health.
- (5) The opening of Hoole Bank, Chester, as a Guest-House for the Blind. A

full account of the opening was given in the December number of *The Beacon*.

During the year under review a serious diminution of funds caused very grave anxiety, and every possible reduction in expenditure was immediately effected, without reducing the number of 322 blind persons employed by the Institute and its branches, nor the salaries and wages paid to them, which amounted to well-nigh £55,000. Temporary relief from this financial embarrassment was secured by special activities, in the result of which St. Dunstan's and the Institute participated. These activities over, the situation is again strained, and a very earnest appeal is made for additional funds.

By the death of their revered President, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., the National Institute for the Blind in conjunction with the entire blind community sustained an irreparable loss. The annual report prints the following resolution, moved by Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., Chairman, seconded by Captain E. B. B. Towse, V.C., Vice-Chairman, and unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Executive Council held on December 20th, 1921:—

"That this Council place on record their profound sorrow at the death of their esteemed President and colleague, Sir Arthur Pearson, and at the irreparable loss the Institute and the blind community have thereby sustained.

"Sir Arthur joined the Council of the Institute in 1913, and in January of the following year was unanimously appointed Treasurer, and in July of the same year President, which offices he held until his With conspicuous ability and whole-hearted devotion he advocated the claims of the blind not only in this country but throughout the Empire: indeed, in every part of the civilised world his name became a household word. To him the Institute is indebted not only for raising large sums of money for the maintenance and extension of its work, but for other forms of personal service, unstintingly rendered day in and day out, while his work on behalf of those men blinded in the great war was beyond praise. To Lady Pearson and family the Council of the Institute offer their deep and sincere sympathy,

assuring her and them that their great President will ever be remembered with gratitude and affection and respect."

The following resignations have oc-

curred during the year:-

Captain V. W. G. Ranger, M.C., on account of great pressure of business, resigned his position as member of the Executive Council. Captain Ranger rendered extremely useful service to the National Institute, and was a very active member of the Standing Committee.

The Rev. Hugh Shearer also resigned as a member of the Executive Council. was particularly interested in the Moon Branch of the Institute's work, and rendered very valuable services in that connec-

tion.

The following appointments were made

during the year:-

Lady (Arthur) Pearson, D.B.E., and the Lord Bishop of Chester were appointed

Vice-Presidents.

Mr. G. F. Mowatt, J.P., was appointed Hon. Treasurer and Chairman of the Standing Committee in place of the late Sir Arthur Pearson.

Mr. P. M. Evans, M.A., LL.D., Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, became a member of the Executive Council and of the Standing Committee.

Mr. J. H. Batty, Chorley Wood, Mr. Councillor I. Mathewson Watson (Manchester), and Mr. Alderman Arthur W. Willey (Leeds), became members of the Executive Council.

DEPARTMENTAL REVIEWS.

Blind Babies.—Applications on behalf of sixty cases were received at Sunshine House, the Blind Babies' Home at Chorley Wood. It is recorded that the methods employed at the Home have yielded most This is evident from successful results. the after-careers of "Sunshine babies, and all the reports obtained speak highly of the great benefits received at the Home.

Juvenile Department.-Forty-six new cases have been dealt with by this department. Some have been recommended to educational authorities, others have been advised as to home training, while kindergarten materials and Braille books have been supplied and, where necessary, convalescent and hospital treatment provided.

Higher Education .- During the year the sum of £4,911 was allocated to Worcester College, which continues its successful efforts to raise the standard of education and status in after-life of blind students. By means of the College for blind girls established at Chorley Wood, and known as "The Cedars." the National Institute offers to blind girls who, but for their handicap, would have been educated at public schools, the same chances in life as are offered to blind boys at Worcester College.

Books and Periodicals for Blind Readers.—The Editorial and Publishing Department of the National Institute has always been of the greatest value to the blind generally, and it is therefore with deep regret that the Committee report a serious decline during the past year in the production of embossed literature,-a decline solely due to lack of funds. In one instance only is there an increase, namely, in the output of embossed magazines. The number of publications in embossed type issued during the year are as follows :-

BRAILLE PUBLICATIONS.

Literature:				
Bound volum	es			5,755
Book pamp	hlets,	instruc	tion	,
cards, alph	abets			6,511
Magazines				85,029
Newspapers				115,423
Braille Book-Pl	ates:			
Literature,	includ	ing m	aga-	
zines and	newspa	apers		18,458
Mooi	n Pubi	LICATION	VS.	
Bound volume	es			3,402
Magazines, p		ets, etc.		4,344
Moon Book-Pla				
Literature				4.057

In addition to books, the Editorial and Publishing Department is responsible for fourteen Braille magazines and newspapers, one magazine in Moon type, and a letterpress magazine, The Beacon. embossed magazines and newspapers cater for the needs of blind persons of all ages and varying tastes, and are, we believe, highly prized by their respective readers.

The arrangement made in 1916 with the National Library for the Blind, Tufton Street, Westminster, whereby thirty-two copies of all books of fiction and seven

copies of all other works published by the National Institute are presented free of charge to the National Library, has been continued.

In pursuance of this arrangement the National Institute supplied free of all cost during the past year to the National Library for the Blind the following books for circulation among its readers:—

Braille volumes			1,174	
Braille pamphlets			134	
Braille magazir	nes	and		
			593	
Moon volumes			972	
Moon pamphlets			14	
Moon magazines			72	
1 D 11' ' D			1.1.1	

The Publicity Department, which is attached to the Editorial Department, keeps the Press throughout all the Englishspeaking world supplied with the latest

information relative to the blind.

The Manuscript Department, which supplies hand-embossed books of an educational or special character, has produced 905 volumes during the year. Successes of blind students who have been greatly assisted by this department are reported from all over the country.

Design Department—Apparatus and Models.—A total of 242 plates has been designed and embossed during the period under review. From these works on history, geography, travel and many other subjects are illustrated. Considerable progress is reported in providing new apparatus and appliances for the blind. A stock of 115 educational models is now available for use in schools for the blind; no charge is made for the loan of these.

Inventions and Research Committee.— Under the chairmanship of Captain Ian Fraser, this Committee have investigated many inventions for the blind, including scientific instruments, tools and appliances for trade purposes, machines for producing embossed literature, typewriting machines, apparatus for the use of the deaf-blind,

and a great variety of games.

Music Department.—Every endeavour has been made during the past year to continue as far as possible all the activities of this department, which is of great importance to a large number of blind persons. A considerable output of Braille music has been maintained, and the figures for the year are as follows:—

Music plates stereotyped ... 2,156
Music volumes produced ... 1,479
Music pamphlets produced 17,553

Wide publicity has been secured for blind organists by diverse means, and the National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers is steadily winning its way and has met with the

approval of eminent musicians.

Massage Branch.—Up to the present time 152 students have been trained for the recognised massage examinations, and have successfully qualified. The majority have also passed the examination in remedial gymnastics and the medical electricity examination inaugurated by St. Dunstan's and the National Institute. combined course covers a period of approximately eighteen months, and during that time substantial financial help is rendered by the Institute in respect of students' maintenance fees, text-books, and services of a guide. The massage library, which is at the free disposal of students and graduates, contains 493 volumes. Besides the blind students actually trained at and under the auspices of the Institute, thirty-seven masseurs and masseuses are directly in touch with and assisted in various ways by the After-Care Section of this department.

After-Care of the Blind.—During the year under review the number of new cases dealt with was 963, making a total now on the Institute's register of 7,039 cases. Though confronted with abnormal periods of distress, it is nevertheless satisfactory to be able to state that during the year a sum of £11,371 17s. 4d. has been distributed in relief to necessitous cases. Gifts have been provided to the value of £989 5s. 9d., and dental and surgical requisites supplied to 35 people.

The After-Care Department is also responsible for 140 persons who are being educated or who are undergoing training in industrial and professional occupations. Educational fees paid during the period under review amounted to £1,250 10s., and training fees to £3,492 7s. 11d. The number of visits paid during the year to blind persons in their own homes by the visitors of this department was 626.

Hoole Bank Guest-House.—Thirteen new guests were admitted during the year,

and thirteen holiday guests were received for a short period. There are at present 24 guests in residence.

Women's Hostel, 40, Langham Street, provides accommodation for some 40 girls, and is an excellent centre for the blind workers of the Institute's staff. The social life of the club is much appreciated.

Blind Musicians' Concert Party.—In spite of adverse conditions due to general trade depression, the proceeds of concerts given during the period under review reached a substantial sum. The blind musicians maintain their well-known standard of excellence, and their efforts are everywhere met with appreciation.

Information Bureau.—Considerable data has been added during the year and valuable information compiled relative to organisations for the blind throughout the world, homes and libraries for the blind, magazines for the blind, eye-diseases, and many other subjects of importance in the blind world.

The working of the Home Teaching Society, the Moon Society, Clifton Home for Blind Women, all branches of the National Institute but registered separately under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, are dealt with elsewhere in this issue in special reviews of their respective reports.

Branch Offices. — The Provincial National Institute has fourteen branch offices in various parts of England and Wales, each acting as a centre to a specified area. These offices are in charge of branch secretaries who are not only engaged in collecting activities, but maintain the Institute's work all over the country, and keep in close touch with Headquarters. Cases of distress are relieved, and attention paid to training and educational requirements. In many instances branch secretaries are serving on local councils, and all are in a great variety of ways promoting the best interests of the blind.

The above account briefly indicates the widespread influence exercised by the National Institute for the Blind. That this influence should be continued must be the wish of all who have at heart the welfare of the blind community and who real ise that this institution, as its name implies, is one of true national importance.

HOME TEACHING SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

A LTHOUGH a branch of the National Institute for the Di Institute for the Blind, the Home Teaching Society for the Blind retains its identity, being registered as a separate charity under the Blind Persons Act, 1920. The management of this Society is now in the hands of a committee, the members of which are identical with those of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind, and five of whom had served on the Committee of the Society before it became a branch of the National Institute. The new arrangement has proved very satisfactory, in that closer co-operation with the work of the Institute's After-Care Department has thereby been effected.

The Committee place on record their profound sorrow at the death of their Chairman, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., on the 9th December, 1921. Sir Arthur became a member of the Committee in February, 1915, and was elected Chairman in January, 1916. Through his instrumentality the Society became affiliated to, and afterwards a branch of, the National Institute for the Blind.

The election of Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., as Chairman, of Captain E. B. B. Towse, V.C., as Vice-Chairman, and of Mr. G. F. Mowatt, J.P., as Hon. Treasurer, is recorded. On the resignation of Miss Gilbert, the Committee, by arrangement with the National Institute, appointed Mr. F. Ingle Stainsby, Assistant Secretary to the Institute, to undertake the duties of Secretary.

During the period under review 39 Home Teachers, of whom all, with one exception, are blind, have paid 71,062 visits to 5,542 blind persons in the Metropolitan area and the Home Counties. 281 pupils were taught to read Braille and 151 to read Moon, whilst 306 persons were taught occupations such as chair-caning, knitting, rug-making, boot-repairing, string-bag and net-making, basket-making and rush-Six pupils learnt typewriting, 19 were taught the manual alphabet, and three received instruction in arithmetic. In addition, the Society has been instrumental in securing financial assistance in the form of pensions and special grants; whilst clothing, groceries, coal, etc., have been provided for a large number of necessitous cases. A feature of the Society's work is the regular visitation of the blind in workhouses and infirmaries. The death is recorded of one of the oldest home-teachers of this Society, Mr. W. White, who for over 33 years had served the Society faithfully and well.

In view of the higher standard now required of Home Teachers the College of Teachers of the Blind have, at the request of the Ministry of Health, prepared a syllabus for the examination of such teachers, and it is hoped that at an early date examinations may be held. This proposal has the cordial approval of the Committee, who feel that the compulsory passing of an examination by Home Teachers before their appointment is confirmed will have the effect of raising their standard and status.

The funds of the Home Teaching Society have been augmented by the National Institute for the Blind during the year to the extent of £7,070, by grants from the Ministry of Health amounting to £3,165, and by a grant of £90 from Gardner's Trust for the Blind. The subscriptions, donations and collections totalled £453, whilst the legacies amounted to £496. The Council express their deep appreciation of this assistance and also of the untiring efforts of those honorary workers who have so ungrudgingly given up their time and energies in the service of the blind.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MOON SOCIETY

IN presenting the report of the work of the Moon Society, a branch of the National Institute for the Blind, the Council emphasise the importance of providing those who lose their sight late in life with Moon literature. In so doing, they endeavour to meet all possible requirements, and the Moon catalogue contains, besides the 59 volumes of the Holy Scriptures, and other works of a religious nature, biographies, scientific works, essays, belles lettres, poetry and fiction. All Moon books published by the Moon Society are

sold at a 75 per cent. discount on cost price to the blind in this country, at a 50 per cent. discount to the blind in the British Colonies, and at cost price to the blind in foreign countries. A great many volumes are, however, given away free; included amongst these are gifts to the National Library for the Blind, Tufton Street, Westminster, which during the year ending March 31st, 1922, amounted to 972 volumes, 14 pamphlets and 72 magazines.

The Executive Council draw attention to the fact that owing entirely to the serious depletion of funds at its disposal during the year under review, the Moon Society has been forced to decrease considerably its annual production of literature. From April 1st, 1921, to March 31st, 1922, 3,402 bound volumes of Moon were published, and 4,344 magazines, pamphlets, etc., while 4,057 Moon bookplates, from which the volumes are printed, were prepared. These figures, if compared with those of the previous year, show a very serious decline in production. It is earnestly hoped that additional funds will be forthcoming in the future, especially in view of the fact that the Moon Society is the only printer of Moon books in the world, and its annual production of books in Moon is consequently the entire annual world-production. Some idea of the number of people who read Moon type can be gathered from the fact that on the register of the National Library for the Blind alone there are over 800 readers of There are also a great many readers in America wholly dependent on the Moon Society for the production and supply of Moon literature.

Special mention must also be made of the urgent necessity of the renewal of the plates from which the Moon Bible is printed.

Needless to say, every effort has been made to continue the publication of new books in spite of the lack of funds.

The Council record the death of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., a Trustee of the Moon Society and President of the National Institute for the Blind. Sir Arthur Pearson always considered the provision of literature in Braille and Moon

types one of the most important duties of any institution caring for the welfare of the blind, and he devoted much time and care to this matter.

CLIFTON HOME FOR BLIND WOMEN

IN June, 1920, the Clifton Home for Blind Women was taken over by the National Institute for the Blind. Executive Council of the Institute report that this arrangement has proved most successful, and that the Home at 9, Gordon Road, Clifton, Bristol, renovated and repaired throughout, has continued during the year ending March 31st, 1922, to provide a happy and peaceful haven of rest and comfort to necessitous blind women over 40 years of age resident in the West of England. The Home has accommodation for 12 inmates, and there has been one new admission during the year, the Home now being full.

During the period under review the loss of two most valuable friends is reported. Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., was, with Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., and the National Institute for the Blind, Trustee of the securities of the Home. Caroline Bush, whose death occurred in the same month as that of Sir Arthur, founded the Home in the year 1874, and was a lifelong benefactor of the blind. She took a deep interest in the women at the Home, and her memory will long be cherished by the many who have benefited by her kindliness. She left to the Home a legacy of £135.

A COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL was held at Bournville on June 4th, when a Children's Choir from the Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind tied with another choir for the first prize, gaining 91 marks out of Their conductor was Mr. Harry E. Platt, Music Master at the Birmingham Institute, and the adjudicator was Dr. Henry Coward. Twenty-four choirs com-

peted.

It is extravagance to ask of others what can be produced by oneself.

SENECA.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND AND ST. DUNSTAN'S

FROM the inauguration of the work on behalf of Sailors and Soldiers Blinded in the Great War to the present time the National Institute for the Blind has materially assisted St. Dunstan's by raising large sums of money towards the maintenance of its work.

The Committee of St. Dunstan's gratefully recognise the services that were rendered by the Institute in the foundation of St. Dunstan's and by many of its departments, which more particularly during the years of the war were of the utmost possible assistance to them in carrying on

their work.

Co-operation between the two in regard to money-raising activities through the Institute's branch organisation, while it has been advantageous to both, has nevertheless led to some confusion in the public mind as to the exact functions of each Having regard to this organisation. fact, and in view of the increasingly pressing claims of the civilian blind community, which numbers nearly 35,000 in England and Wales alone, it has been decided that the Institute and St. Dunstan's will best serve the interests of the blind by making their own individual appeals for subscriptions and donations.

In future, therefore, with the exception of outstanding engagements, the branch organisation of the National Institute for the Blind will not collect funds for St. Dunstan's, though from time to time money-raising schemes of a national character may be conducted jointly.

It is sincerely hoped that this arrangement will in no way affect the friendly relations which have hitherto existed be-

tween the two organisations.

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Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind

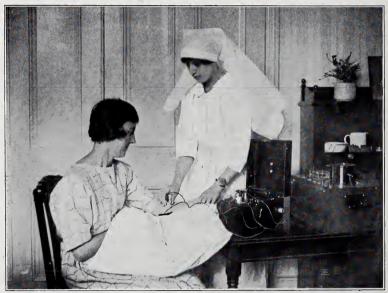
Chairman of St. Dunstan's Care and St. Dunstan's After-Care Committees

A NEW MASSAGE CLINIC

N Thursday, June 29th, Miss N. B. Stephen, a blind masseuse trained under the auspices of the National Institute for the Blind, opened a Massage and Electrical Clinic at 115, Thorold Road, Ilford. Miss Stephen, who holds the qualification of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics (an examination for which blind candidates sit under exactly the same conditions as sighted candidates) has practised in Ilford for the past three months. and has recently acquired larger premises, which will enable her to meet the demands of a rapidly-growing clientèle. daughter of a medical man, Miss Stephen holds an excellent war record, having completed nearly five years' service in Military and Ministry of Pensions hospitals.

The official opening of the new clinic was attended by many local doctors and residents, all of whom displayed great interest in its arrangement and equipment, and, in particular, the library of Braille books dealing with massage, electricity, and kindred subjects. The clinic is admirably equipped with the latest apparatus, and in this connection Miss Stephen received valuable assistance from the National Institute for the Blind; accommodation is also being arranged for resident patients.

During the afternoon an interesting account of the work accomplished by blind masseurs and masseuses was given by Mrs. Chaplin Hall, Organising Secretary of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs. Mrs. Hall said that for the last seven years it had been her privilege to work for a section of the community which,



MISS N. B. STEPHEN, DAUGHTER OF LIEUT.-COL. W. H. STEPHEN, R.A.M.C., WAS TRAINED IN MASSAGE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, AND HAS RECENTLY OPENED A MASSAGE AND ELECTRICAL CLINIC IN LIFORD. (Photopress)

labouring under the handicap of loss of sight, was engaged in a profession calling for a very high standard of technical and scientific attainment. The speaker emphasised the fact that loss of sight by no means entailed loss of other faculties. The reverse was the case, and accentuated sense of touch and of hearing, coupled with careful individual training (such as is arranged at the National Institute for the Blind), enabled blind masseurs and masseuses to hold their own with their sighted confrères. To illustrate her point, Mrs. Hall told her audience that at a recent massage examination a blind masseur, sitting under exactly the same conditions as several hundreds of sighted candidates, headed the pass-list with distinction.

A perusal of the list of successes achieved by blind candidates in the Massage Examinations will satisfy the reader that Mrs. Hall was here referring to no isolated case. The suitability of massage as a profession for blind persons who are well educated and physically fit is becoming more and more widely recognised in this country by doctors and patients alike.

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The whole dignity of man is in thought, Labour then to think aright.

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THE final drive of the St. Dunstan's National Whist Championship was played at Olympia on June 30th. The three leading prizes were allotted as follows:—

£1,000-Miss H. C. Rainford, Liver-

pool; score 164. £500—Mr. H. Nixon, Warwickshire;

score 146.

£500—W. J. Watkins, Monmouthshire; score 144.

Pianos were won by Reginald Preston, of Northumberland, and Mrs. Renfrey, of Devonshire, each with a score of 143.

There were thousands of entries, and games took place throughout last winter

do do

WE extend our warmest congratulations to Mr. Alfred Hollins, the blind organist of St. George's United Free Church, Edinburgh, for the well-deserved honour, namely, the degree of Doctor of Music, which has just been bestowed on him by the Edinburgh University.

CORRESPONDENCE

214, Dick Lane, Tyrsal, Bradford, July 11th, 1922.

S IR,—Having just read the article, "Is a further adaptation of Braille Necessary?" as a teacher of blind children allow me to put in a plea for the girls and boys. It sent a shiver down my back to learn that there might be an extension of "Grade II," so as to include an additional "490 further contractions."

By the time that blind children reach the age of leaving school, they already have to acquire a very large stock of signs, which most of them do not find an easy matter, but to put such an additional tax upon their memories would be cruel, or even materially to add to the present demand. Nevertheless, there is no reason why the series already comprising Grade II should not be rationally completed. For instance, it strikes one as strange to find that "dots 2-4-6 H" (had) belong to Grade II, whereas "dots 2-4-6" do not.

We teachers find it rather difficult to get our children to undertake private individual reading for themselves, and I believe it is because there is such a mass of contractions to decipher, making reading such a slow business, that there is little enjoyment in the process. To increase the Hill of Difficulty before them would still more discourage the little learners. I am afraid that the expert adult often forgets the ones at the other end of the ladder.

Yours faithfully, L. HOLDEN.

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THE After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind report that during the month of June 101 fresh cases came under their care (59 men and 42 women). Gifts to the number of 22 were provided at a cost of £68 3s. 7d. The number of visits paid was 42. The number of visits paid was 42. The amount expended in training fees was £134 7s. 1d., in relief £294 16s. 6d., and in relief administered by branches £6. Other grants and payments amounted to £95 16s. 4d.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

[IN last month's "Notes from the Institutions" there appeared a statement to the effect that Mr. Henrick von Niederhausen had retired from his work in connection with the Northern Counties Blind Society. We now have pleasure in informing our readers that this statement was incorrect.]

CHESTER SOCIETY FOR THE HOME TEACHING OF THE BLIND.—The work of this Society includes the care of 446 blind persons in the following areas: Chester, Cheshire, Flintshire and Denbighshire. A total of 4,875 visits was paid during the year by home teachers and visitors.

R OYAL GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.—At a meeting of subscribers, held on July 12th, a resolution was unanimously adopted approving that this institution be taken over by the Joint Committee of Local Authorities for the South West of Scotland in terms of the Blind Persons Act, 1920. It is pointed out that a Provisional Order is necessary to effect the transfer, and that nearly a year must clapse before the said Order is secured.

Barclay Home and School for Blind and Partially Blind Girls.—The chief event of the year, as recorded in the 29th Annual Report, was the purchase of No. 31, Wellington Road, Brighton, to provide a separate building as a workshop The cost was £1,600, which was met in part by a legacy of £980 from the late Mr. C. Cresswell. At the Home and School there are now 96 blind women and girls, of whom 86 are resident at the Home. In the workshops wages and augmentation wages of blind workers to the amount of £710 were given, the wages of sighted finishers of coats and jerseys amounting to £205. Sales to the value of £3,102 were effected during the year. In the last issue of The Beacon we mentioned that Miss Lilian Blois, a pupil of the Barclay Home Elementary School, was successful in gaining a fourth prize of ten guineas for an essay in the Lord Roberts' Memorial Fund Competition. A prize of £1 was secured by another pupil, Miss Gertrude Tearle.

EYES TO THE BLIND SOCIETY.—This Society, which was inaugurated in 1902, has, as already announced, become amalgamated with the Barclay Workshop, 21, Crawford Street, W. In submitting the Society's Annual Report, Miss Laura Douglas-Hamilton states that during the past fourteen years they have made and sold goods to the value of £12.618. During the year their sales realised £1,211. The sum of £306 was paid in wages to blind workers, £678 to sighted workers, and £179 in augmentation wages. Committee place on record their warm appreciation of the devoted services of Miss Douglas-Hamilton, the founder of the Society, to whose energy, enterprise and resourcefulness its success is largely due. Miss Douglas-Hamilton has accepted temporarily the post of Hon. Superintendent of the Knitting Branch of the Barclay Workshop.

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—The 75th Annual Report is to hand, and records that in various ways approximately 1,200 blind persons come under the care of the Institution. At the school there is accommodation for 110 resident pupils, besides which there is a daily attendance of some 60 scholars whose sight is expected to become impaired. A School Savings Bank has been inaugurated. During the year the sum of £635 was distributed to needy blind persons, the grants taking the form of weekly amounts of from one to ten shillings. Approximately 400 unemployable blind persons have been visited and taught during the period under review. Sales to the value of £32,995 were effected, a decrease of £11,206 as compared with the previous year. A total of £15,101 was paid to blind workers in wages and augmentation wages. A sick club for the benefit of blind workers has been formed.

WE learn that a machine for the manufacture of cigars by the blind has been set up by the Society for the Manufacture of Cigar Machines in Berlin. Experience has proved that by means of this machine a blind man can make a larger number of cigars than three or four cigar makers and rollers can manufacture by hand.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

Report on Craft Instructors' Course-May 1922



course of lectures, demonstrations, etc., for Craft Instructors was organised by the College of Teachers of the Blind, and held at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, on the 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th May, 1922. About a score of Trade Instructors attended and, though the number was not large, it was a representative gathering, as

the students were drawn from many different parts of the country—from Newcastle in the north to Brighton in the

south.

The proceedings were opened on Tuesday, the 23rd May, at 10 o'clock, when Miss Garaway, Chairman of the College, introduced Mr. Frank Roscoe to the

gathering.

Miss Garaway explained that the intention of the College when it instituted this Course was to raise the educational level of the Craft Instructors in Schools for the Blind, to help them to gain fresh ideas by mixing with one another, and to stimulate their interest in all that appertained to their work. Miss Garaway then spoke of the gratitude all felt to Mr. Roscoe for coming that morning. "Mr. Roscoe," Miss Garaway said, "was the Registrar of the Teachers' Registration Council, and knew more about education than anybody else in the country."

Mr. Roscoe said:—

"I understand that you have come here to have what in my younger days was called 'Experience,' that is to say, you are going to compare your practice as Teachers. You are going to see the practice of other people, and I hope you are going to refer all that you see to some standard of achievement, a standard that will be higher than anything you see or yourselves reach. Unless you have a high standard, one that you can hope to reach, your efforts are apt to be second-rate.

"Robert Louis Stevenson says: 'To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive and the true hopefulness is to labour.'

"In spite of what Miss Garaway has told you of my fitness for this task. I am not in the least conscious that I have anything to say to you that is really worth while. I don't know whether you have ever thought of the importance of having a background for your ordinary work. You see the evils of not having one. You see people and hear people discussing the events of to-day, the things which are being done in England and Europe, in the world, and they discuss these things in complete ignorance of what has happened in the past. They don't know, so they cannot think of present happenings in the right way. I need not give you examples beyond referring to much of the current discussion which goes on about the reorganisation of Europe. People talk about this as if it were the first time anybody had tried to do it. The truth is that for one thousand years past different people have had different ideas of organising Europe, making it a working machine. and the person who knows about these previous experiments can compare what is being done now with these. Everybody should know to some extent what was thought and done in the past about his He is then able to face particular job. any new ideas, whether they come from across the Atlantic or the North Sea. Background is not only desirable but essential in work. A teacher should ask himself first, not how shall I teach or what shall I teach, but why should I teach. That is the important question. He should ask that about every subject. When you are discussing methods of imparting knowledge, if you are not careful you plunge into the middle instead of the beginning. Before discussing how he should teach, the craft teacher should

know why. When this is answered he has the clue as to how. For example, if you are teaching a craft solely that your pupil may make money by it, well, in that case you teach it in one way-you will be satisfied with technical expertness. If on the other hand you are teaching the craft in order that a pupil may get the fullest intel-lectual stimulus out of it, your method will be different, sufficiently different to make a world of difference in your method of teaching. So you see, you should ask yourself why should I teach a particular subject. Consider the question further back still, ask yourself why should I teach. You have a number of people under you, who presumably cannot back out. stand up in front of them and say, 'I am going to teach you; at the end of the time you will be vastly improved.' I say it is impertinent of you. The student would be justified in asking you for your credentials-what idea you have in your head as to how the mind can be improved. We assume the whole of education as far as children are concerned. The word 'teach' itself is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word 'teon,' to explain; so in the literal sense if I show a man the way from Swiss Cottage to Regent's Park, I am teaching him. I cannot teach unless I know it. Secondly, I cannot teach him the way successfully unless I know him, that is to say, I should indicate the way to one man in a manner different to that which I should adopt in the case of another. If the man could not see, it would be useless to give him a map. If he could not read, my teaching would be different to what it would be if he could. If he is deaf the method would be different again. In any case the way is to indicate the route. When I am indicating the route I must know it and know the person to whom I indicate it. The indication must be adjusted to the particular type of man, his particular aptitude and power. In directing a man from Swiss Cottage, let me see the different ways in which I can impart the necessary knowledge. First of all, I can talk to him. Another way would be to give him a map of the route, and the third way would be for me to say, 'I am going in that direction and will show you.' The third way is the best. The

best way to help him is to take him, show him knowledge step by step on the route. It is quite easy to give good counsel, it is easy to set down good counsel in writing to be read. The most difficult thing is to exemplify the counsel. It is simply a question of doing with your pupil what you want him to do. If you know the route quite well, he will be able to do it well and can do it well with you.

"We have only discussed the question of what is called instruction, showing or pointing out, giving knowledge. Latin word 'build in.' 7 'instruction' means to The teacher's task does not stop there. I might adopt all the three methods of teaching, the verbal description, the map, and even the offer to accompany my pupil, but if my pupil did not do anything himself my teaching would be useless. You are building the facts of the route to knowledge, but you must get the pupil to do it. Teaching is not merely showing or pointing out, although it is that as well. Literally it means the development or fostering of power. My pupil has not really learnt until I have evoked in him a desire to do. One way to describe a teacher's task is to say that a teacher's task is to evoke a great desire to know and to do. When a teacher has done that the rest can be left, because the pupil will proceed then to complete the task. If he desires to know and to do keenly, he will not rest until he has learnt to do so and he becomes a well taught and well educated person.

"As regards morality, people are often very well informed, but information does not make them moral. Some ignore their knowledge. Knowledge is not power by itself, and the teacher has to foster power beyond the mere giving of knowledge. What is this power? Increased power marks the stages in the evolution of humanity. Our great-grandfathers in the 18th century were very fond of talking of the primitive savage. Rousseau told his generation that man in a state of nature was moral, hardworking, fearless, etc. He tried to induce the people to get back to that stage. This led to the French Revolution. The primitive man was not as he described him to be. The savage is afraid of everything. He turns all into

malignant spirits. He is a timid, incapable creature with no mastery over his environment. As man became able to master the elements, to master the sea, to turn the wind and water power to use, became able to overcome the obstinacy of rocks, build houses, etc., each stage extending over a million years, marked a gradual increase in the human quality. Compare this to your work as teachers of craft. Your pupils have to turn out of materials things usable and beautiful. Mr. Ritchie has been showing me a basket made of cane. What lies behind that achievement? The basket is simple and in its way quite beautiful, well adapted for the purpose it was made, but what does it Think of the material as it grows in the forest, think of how man must have struggled before he could get it under control. Think of the successful stages through which it has been until it is a comparatively docile thing in the hands of a good craftsman.

" Just picture our primitive forefathers beginning to master crafts. Are you aware of the length of time it took before it occurred to anybody to put an eye in a needle. Have you visited a museum and traced the development of a needle from the spike of bone put through the material, then on to the next stage, a hook at the end through which the thread was put and tied, until it was thought that a hole might be made instead of a hook? Let your mind play around these things. The business becomes extremely fascinating. Every development of machinery has taken years. The first sewing machines were mechanical devices based on the movements of the hand in pushing the needle through the material. You will see from the tools you use in woodwork how they are really an extension of the hammer and the knife. You are really making use of the acquired knowledge of a thousand years, and always bear in mind that you must get your pupil ready for the next stage ahead.

"Do you wonder why this room has a gable? Across the room are seen beams running horizontally. The original house which was made by your great-grandfathers was made of two tree trunks which he put up. He gradually used curved branches and put them together, wide at the bottom and narrow at the top. He

laid along the top a roof tree. That is the earliest form of a house, others followed. It became convenient to have cross pieces, side by side, instead of two curved branches. They put uprights and then made a gable by two other pieces. It is interesting to see how the fragments remain. There is no value in knowing about them unless the knowledge enables you to see the course of this mastery over material.

"There is a further power which has to be gained, and that is the power of thought. You know as teachers the extraordinary power of resistance to concentration. If you think of it you will see how few people are able to undertake the task of thinking consecutively for ten minutes. The mind is wandering off, wondering what will happen next, so you see how hard it is for us to get power over thought. Part of the teacher's task is to enable the pupil to do. What I have said bears on this when you once realise that progress is gradual. Take two statements: "All teachers should have knowledge." Mr. Smith is a teacher.' What conclusion can you come to? 'Mr. Smith should have knowledge.' That is a true deduction from the two previous statements. You cannot arrive at it by examination, you can only arrive at it by logical reasoning. is a lot of loose thinking because one of the premises is often wrong.

"Education costs far more than it ought to, therefore cut down the cost of education by eighteen millions." Why do you say it costs more than it ought to? Very few people take the trouble to examine it. It is important to get power over thought, a good judgment of what you hear. Everything is worth examining and worth considering. It is degradation to humanity to accept facts set before us.

"One of your chief tasks is the discovery of aptitude. You will find that your pupils have in some direction or other a real gift. Teachers are apt to think they are more important than they are. Rhetoricians tell us that in our hands is the moulding of the future generation, but much is done before the pupils come to you. Inherent ability is an important thing. The teacher plays an extremely important part. He should attempt to discover every grain of aptitude in a pupil.

Some pupils are not particularly alert in one form of work. Try them in another. Never pass sentence on a pupil as hopeless unless you have tried every possible opportunity of finding his talent. teacher's equipment must be as big as he can make it. A degree does not mean that your education is finished. It means a license for you to begin. People think they are exempt from learning anything more, but can go on handing out the same stuff over and over again. A teacher has no right to bore his pupils. A teacher should not be a dull person. Make your own knowledge complete. Note the relationship of the craft, the history of the material used. Get into the stream of You will then be successful in your I don't think education in this work. country has really begun, we have only been trying to educate for a short time, have been fumbling about too much. Trained intelligence in a nation is a factor which makes for sensible and healthy civic life.

A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Roscoe was moved by H. W. Tate, Esq., J.P., of Bradford, seconded by Sir Ellis Cunliffe, of the West London Workshops for the Blind, and carried with acclamation.

At 11 o'clock the students broke up into groups according to the crafts in which they are engaged and demonstrations were given in:

Basket-making by Mr. J. A. Cheek of L.C.C. School for the Blind, Linden Lodge, Wandsworth Common, S.W., and Mr. G. Symes, School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, N.W.

Mat-making by Mr. G. Wordley, Blind Employment Factory, Waterloo Road, S.E.

Pianoforte Tuning and Repairing by Mr. H. J. Kelley, the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E.

Boot Repairing by Mr. A. Costello, School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, N.W.

Machine Knitting by Miss A. Burrow, London Knitting Industries, Ltd.

After lunch an excursion took place to the Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood, S.E., when the students had an opportunity of seeing various branches of educational work, and those specially interested in pianoforte tuning were able to study the method pursued in the College.

On Wednesday at 10 a.m., T. F. Hobson, Esq., J.P., M.A., F.S.A., Chairman of the Council of the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, N.W., took the chair and introduced Miss M. M. R. Garaway.

Speaking on "Schemes of Work" Miss

Garaway said :-

" Now let me say first and foremost that I have not the slightest intention of drawing up Schemes of Work for any of the trades or crafts here represented; that can only be adequately done by one who has a full and intimate knowledge of the trade in question, and that I do not even pretend to have. I want to insist on some of the principles which underlie all good drawing of schemes, and to this aspect I will confine myself, leaving it to you, perhaps in the discussion following, perhaps at some future time, to put into practice the sug-

gestions I will make.

It is thought, by some, that it may be said of such schemes as of some laws that 'they are more honoured in the breach than in the observance '; be that as it may, and I will return to that aspect of the subject later, I want first to insist upon their usefulness. Firstly, when you sit down to draw up your scheme, you are forced to think out your subject systematically, to consider the various parts, which of those parts you will select and in what order you will present them, and you will presumably have some reasons for your decisions. You will have considered your pupils, their capabilities and possibilities, and have made some effort to adapt your scheme to their powers. Now your drawing up of the scheme may be faulty, or your conditions may so vary that what has been true ceases to be so, but the careful consideration of your subject, the weighing of the various points, your effort to adapt it to your pupils' needs will not be thrown away. It has forced you to consider and ponder various points, and though you may alter your conclusions You have been that does not matter. made alive to aspects of the question which had not before occurred to you; the very fact that you have altered your conclusions shows that fresh light has been

thrown upon the subject. Here then is the justification of your effort: at least it has made you critical of yourself and your own work, one of the first requisites of

progress.
"2. That your scheme is sometimes ' more honoured in the breach than in the observance' is not an adverse criticism. You tried to consider the needs of the average learner, but many are not average, and directly you realise that you quite rightly deviate from the course laid down. Your learner may be young and un-developed, and need a simplified course; or he may be middle-aged and very 'slow in the uptake,' and you see that you can only wisely attempt a section of your subject; or he may be so brilliant that you feel you can safely propose a much more elaborate scheme. I think, however, if your experience shows that for the large majority of your learners it is either too elaborate or not elaborate enough, that will be a criticism upon the scheme itself, and it will be wise to reconsider it in the light

of experience gained.

"3. Schemes naturally vary according to circumstances, and it is most unlikely that any one scheme that we could draw up would exactly meet the needs of all. What may be excellent for one class of workshop may be quite unsuitable for another. The age and ability of the learner, the object you want to achieve, affect your For instance, your treatment of young people of average ability would differ considerably from that which you would consider suitable for a man who had lost his sight in middle age; so the personnel of the class is one of the great deciding factors in your deliberation; upon that will largely depend the manner in which you will attack your subject. average young person needs a complete and comprehensive knowledge of his work; breadth of knowledge and general skill are more to be desired than money making, for the present; to become a really skilled workman is his goal, and on that much time and work must be expended. Your scheme will be planned to achieve that end, the time needed will be allotted, the progress will be thorough, though possibly slow.

" For your middle-aged man or woman, who must earn as soon as they can with

safety, who will probably make their living along narrower lines, you may sometimes limit your instruction to one section of the work and make your pupil's wage earning on a narrower basis than was the case with the young learner. schemes in these two cases would greatly

'Schemes then have various objects, and are good or bad as they meet the needs of various circumstances. There is one set of Schemes of Work which is probably familiar to everyone here—those issued by the Ministry of Health. a glance at these schemes will show you their purpose, they indicate the entire ground to be covered under favourable circumstances, but they do not attempt to show in what time, or in what exact order, that ground should be covered. That each responsible teacher has to decide for himself, when he has carefully taken his conditions into account. He must also come to a decision as to whether his learners must attempt a section only—the whole—or the whole, with additions.

"4. Here then emerge some of the

points we have to keep before us:-

The type of pupil and his Are you to aim at comprehenneeds. sive knowledge and perfected skill, or must you take early wage earning into consideration?

" 2. The amount of the subject to be dealt with, this depends directly on your

decisions under (1).

"3. The order of teaching. what order you will present the various parts of your subject. Sometimes the order is obvious, there is no choice; sometimes on mature consideration the line to follow is not so obvious, the usual order is not necessarily the only order or even the best. Even when you accept a recognised order you may with advantage consider whether you will teach a piece of work in its entirety, teach all of it, before proceeding to the next; or whether you will deal with essentials only and return at a later stage for completion.

"4. Then you have to allocate your work according to the time at your disposal, decide as to the length of each period and the ground you may fairly

hope to cover.

"Now having carefully considered all these points and having made up our minds which is the best course to take, I want to offer one or two practical suggestions on the actual drawing up of a scheme.

"I would say, pick out the salient points of each section, give a broad outline, indicating amount, order, time, but beware of going into too much detail. Let your plan be clear. It is not meant to be a text-book of the subject with directions as to how the work is to be done, a mistake which is sometimes made. It should be a general indication only of the lines on which you are going to work."

Miss Garaway's lecture was followed by an interesting discussion in which many of the students took part. At 11 o'clock the sectional meetings were again held, when the subject matter of the lecture was carried into practical application by the various experts. In the afternoon an excursion took place to the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, Surrey, where the students were hospitably received by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and were much impressed by his magnificent buildings and grounds.

(To be continued.)



RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY (N.I.B.)

Hypnotism and Treatment by Suggestion, by A. E. Davis, F.R.C.S. in 2 vols. Psychology of Insanity, by Bernard Hart, M.D.

POCKET EDITIONS.

Observations on the Nutrition of Articular Cartilage, by T. S. P. Strangeways, M.A.

Blood Grouping, and Its Clinical Application, by S. C. Dyke, M.B.

Treatment of Paralysis in Children, by Sir Robert Jones, K.B.E., F.R.C.S.



M. E. VANDEN HOUTEN, Secretary of the "Ligue Braille," 45, Rue de Loxum, Brussels, informs us that this league is arranging a permanent stall at the International Museum, Palais Mondial, Brussels, where the International University will hold its session in August.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

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* Stereotyped books.

p Pamphlets.

"The Tinted Venus," "The Three Musketeers,"
"Poultry Keeping on Small Lines," and "The Black
Poodle" were presented by the National Institute
for the Blind,

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the July Numbers

- Progress.—Chlorophyll: The Spring of Life—The Art of Repartee—A Page of Poems—Is a Further Adaptation of Braille Necessary?—Garden Notes (July)—National Library for the Blind—Our Prize Competitions—Correspondence—Matters of the Moment—Advertisements—The Question-Box— Chess—Our Home Page.
- The Literary Journal.—Some Gramophone Experiences—A Visit to M. Coué—The Literature of Exploration—The Hard Facts about Germany—"Fond of Animals"—National Library for the Blind—Making a Constitution—The Cost of Law—Coins of Cresus—Statesmen as Early Risers.
- School Magazine.—The Story of Famous Books (I)
 "Waverley." by Sir Walter Scott—The Redskin of
 the North Pacific Coast ("Chambers Journal")—
 The Home Life of the Heron, by Captain C. W.
 Knight, M.C.—Sir Christopher Wren—Fishes'
 'Happy Home Life ("TireBits")—Queries—Shakespeare's Characters (from "Lectures on the English
 Poets," by William Hazlitt)—The Beginnings of
 Railways—Biography in Brief: Vitus Bering (1680–
 1741)—Wireless Telephony ("TireBits")—These
 Things Shall Be (Poem), by John Addington Symonds
 —Niagara Falls—The Mussel.
- Comrades. The King of the Amalosa (from a tradition of the Mashona) The Two Princesses (from "Stories for the Story Hour") Fairy Merry-Maker (Grade I), by Doris Bateman Island-Builders (from "Nature-Stories to tell to Children," by H. Waddingham Seers) Puzzles—In the Woods, by Nancy Wood—Where the Flower gets its Scent.
- Musical Magazine.—Dan Godfrey—Blind Violinist's Continental Tour—Special Notice—Notes and News concerning the Blind-Music at the National Institute —Advertisement—Our Tuners' Column—Review: "The Church's Heritage in Song"—A Good Offer—The National Library's Music Librarian—Kreitzer, 42 Studies—Correspondence—New Musical Organ in King George's Hall, Blackburn Supplement: Braille Music Reviews—Insets: Piano, "Berceuse," Op. 57, by Chopin; Organ, "Bohemesque," by Wolstenholme.

- Massage Journal, being the official organ of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs.—Obiuary—Official Notices—News in the Massage World—Arthritis Deformans, by Charles W. Buckley, M.D.—The Objective Study of Neurosis (II) (from "The Lancet"), by F. L. Golla, M.B.Oxon., F.R.C.P. London
- Santa Lucia.—Prisoners of the Purdah—The Great Impersonatiou, chapters 16-17 (to be continued), by E. Phillips Oppenheim—The Amazing Cave—Locust Army Passes by—Teaching Canaries to Sing—Lucky Halfpenny.
- Hampstead Magazine. The Evidence in the Chair, by Vincent Hughes—Sir Henry Wilson—Most Famous People in History—The Fathers of Engineering—Keeping Fit at Eighty.
- The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. Annual subscription 7s. 6d., abroad 11s. 6d.
- The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—The Lazy Man—Smelling for a Living—The Human Touch— World's Wonder Bridges—Christening Towns— Microbes that Drive Motors—Whaleskin Boots.
- Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world day by day, keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. Subscription, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.
- Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Auswers, Tit.Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs, as well as a Sporting Page. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 2d. per copy (3d. post free), 8s. per year (inland and abroad).

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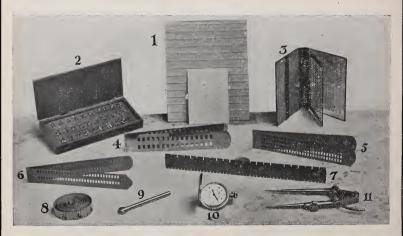
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Vol. VI.-No. 69.

SEPTEMBER, 1922.

PRICE 3D.

NOTES ON THE PREPARATION OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

By EDWARD E. ALLEN, Director of the Perkins Institute and Massachusetts School for the Blind
(Reprinted by kind permission of the Author)



Y original notes on this subject were thrown into paper form a year ago and read at Vinton. Since then I have made changes in the light of additional information and brought the notes up to date. The paper presents the pros and cons of special teacher preparation, deals with the demands for it and how these were met in other fields

and lands, and with our own recent response, and closes with a list of papers and books on the pedagogy of the blind.

In an article from an English source on the Dual Ideal in Education, the writer of it, quoting from Mr. Stephen Leacock on influence v. instruction, says: "Let us reflect for a moment on what qualifications the real schoolmaster ought to have. First, he must possess the knowledge of the things he teaches in the schoolroom. This is a mere nothing. Any jackass can learn up enough algebra or geometry to teach it to a class of boys; in fact, plenty of them do. But apart from the trivial qualification of knowing a few facts, the ideal schoolmaster has got to be the kind of man who can instinctively lead his fellow-men (men are only grown-up boys, and boys are only undamaged men), who can inspire them to do what he says,

because they want to be like him, who can kindle and keep alight in a boy's heart a determination to make of himself something that counts, to build up in himself every ounce of bodily strength and mental power and moral worth for which he has the capacity. The ideal schoolmaster should be a man filled with the gospel of strenuous purpose." Again, in a suggestive discussion on the training of teachers, an American educator of the deaf asserts that the possessions of an ideal teacher come under these four heads—health, intellectual equipment, emotional equipment, and training. Notice that he places health first and training last. Now, by intellectual equipment he does not mean education but rather native strength of mind, and by emotional equipment, that "heart power" without which there can be no successful teaching. His paper, which may be found in the American Annals of the Deaf for October, 1913, is short and suggestive, and I would commend its reading to my colleagues.

Our own Dr. Howe in writing to engage a teacher once said: "I have tried the head and hand system enough. I must henceforth have more aid from the hearts of my collaborators—or must give up myself."

No one who has had the responsibility of employing teachers will refuse to accept the above stated propositions. To be sure, there have always been and still are some who ask nothing beyond native fitness and general education. We often recruit our best teachers from college of graduates innocent systematic psychology and pedagogy. But most of us have come to demand some general vocational preparation, especially for in-structing our elementary classes. We look for normal training, followed by success in teaching sighted children. We say and seem to believe that more than this is alike impracticable and unnecessary. Our arguments are, first, in the words of Dr. Dow. long-time superintendent of the Minnesota school: "I don't want a teacher teaching under me who has not had experience in teaching sighted children, that is, the normal type of child, as it is desirable to learn how to do things under normal conditions. under normal circumstances, with normal people before you undertake to deal with the abnormal condition "; second, we prefer not to draw teachers from other blind schools, believing as many of us do that a co-operative spirit necessary for team work in the complex life of our institutions is more hindered by a mixture of ideals than is the instruction benefited by special advance experience. How often we hear a superintendent declare, "I prefer to train my own teachers." But the chief reason why we acquiesce in our present plan is that we think we are obliged to, because, first, the whole annual turnover of teachers in our several states would not justify including in normal school curricula special courses on the blind; and because, second, we know that one cannot acquire much blind psychology out of a book-which is, perhaps, one reason why more literature on the subject has not been written. No, we declare, and our experience causes us to believe, that the otherwise well-prepared teacher can better understand her blind pupils from three-months' actual work with them than from any amount of cogitation on theory.

Nevertheless, we squirm a little when someone of importance expresses astonishment that there is no provision for systematic training of teachers of the blind. Perhaps we begin to realise then

why the educational status of our work is not high, and perhaps never will be until we too fall in line.

Educators of the deaf have fallen in line. True, their work is older, larger, and, because of the language difficulty, more special than ours-but I believe it stands higher in public estimation. From letters written me by principals of these schools I learn that Gallaudet College in Washington has for some years conducted a normal course for intending teachers of the deaf, the fellowships being tenable by graduates of any well-known college. A one-year's course is given in the history and practice of the education of the deaf, which furnishes the necessary background; and the fellows are required to associate with the young deaf pupils of the college, thereby coming to comprehend the difficulties of work among the deaf. The principal of the Horace Mann School for the Deaf, which is under the Boston School Board, tells me—and the statement is significant —that she is no longer permitted to employ as teachers candidates who have not had special as well as general preparation. Several other schools for the deaf offer systematic normal courses; and many old and experienced teachers advertise for private students desiring short-term intensive training.

There are several places where one may prepare to teach the very backward and the feeble-minded. The summer school at the all-the-year-round institution at Vineland, N.J., has now run fifteen seasons and certificated some 563 students, our Mr. Irwin being one of them. . This summer school is affiliated with the Department of Psychology and Education of Leigh University.

Though we in America have not come to promote teacher-training for our work with blind pupils, some of our colleagues abroad have come to it. Austria claims to have pioneered under Director Mell of the late Imperial Institution at Vienna, who also published a manual for the instruction of teachers of the blind. First, he succeeded in requiring all students of the general courses in normal schools to give some attention to the theory and practice of instructing the blind. This he did largely in order to spread a knowledge of how to advise the parents of blind children under

school age. His particular course being conducted at the institution for the blind, a number remained as candidates to teach there; and this is what they had to go through:—The unpaid cadet was first placed for several months under an experienced instructor of elementary classes to observe and read and to do actual teaching under the same expert supervision. And if he promised well from every point of view, he was permitted to serve for two years, doubtless with a small stipend, at the close of which period he was subjected to a searching examination both in theory and practice.

Early in the year 1913 Prussia, following such leadership, imposed upon all candidate teachers of the blind the passing of a rigid examination similar to the one above indicated, and, later in the same year, imposed an even more rigid one on candidates for the post of superintendent. Ohio and New York State have been known to choose between rival candidates for a superintendency by recourse to examinations. I have not learned, however, that the method has yet spread to other states. But the Prussian plan was not put in practice so much for political reasons as for sifting out incompetency; and doubtless it has tended to place the status of the education of the blind in Germany where we ourselves would like to see it in America. Germany has also issued a manual or compendium for the teacher's examinations.

In France—especially at the pioneer instructors are chosen because they are blind and so are not supposed to suffer for lack of special training or psychology—no system of normal preparation is yet required, though there is some demand for it, the particular critic I have read stating that the indicated condition of affairs is shameful. He would convert this parent institution into a training school for the teachers for all the institutions of the country.

The teacher training situation in England is illuminating. When Sir Francis Campbell began his work there in 1872, he realised that the changes in the education of the blind, so strongly advocated by Dr. Armitage, could be brought about by preparing teachers. Therefore the College at

Upper Norwood was opened both as an academy of music and a normal training school for its own advanced students, and teacher training was early introduced among them. In 1896 the Normal Department was recognised by the National Board of Education as a Training College for blind students, a grant was given by the Government, and a Teacher's Certificate awarded to each student who passed the required examinations. Many of the graduates obtained situations as teachers in day classes and residential schools throughout England and Wales.

Later, in 1907, a requirement for all England was made, as follows:-There being no training schools for sighted teachers of the blind, an examining body called The College of Teachers of the Blind was created, and the rule imposed that any institution which should employ a teacher of elementary subjects over two years without his being accredited by this College should forfeit all government "To secure a certificate, candidates must pass in six subjects of examination ":-1, theoretical knowledge of Braille Grades I. and II.; 2, practical knowledge of Braille Grades I. and II.: 3. practical knowledge of arithmetic for the blind; 4, practice of teaching; 5, theory of education as applied to the blind, including History of the Education of the Blind; and, finally, 6, one topic selected out of nine departmental specials. The test is said to be long and searching, and applies to blind and sighted alike.

Since the foundation of this college 216 teachers have been certificated by it. The following very interesting quotation from the rules has an obvious bearing on the success of the scheme:—"Where the teacher holds the diploma of the College of Teachers of the Blind an additional minimum salary of £20 per annum should be paid."

Now, the object of all this is (1) to promote the training of teachers, (2) to raise their status by giving them a recognised position as specialists in the work of education, (3) to give teachers an opportunity of submitting their qualifications to an accredited body, (4) to raise the tone and character of the institutions generally, (5) to diffuse by means of a library, lectures and otherwise, information on all matters

connected with their education and with the normal, mental and social conditions of the blind, and (6) to encourage interchange of thought and opinion and to promote fellowship.

An interesting by-product of this college is an organisation known as the Association of Teachers of the Blind, which publishes an organ called "The Teacher of

the Blind."

Writing of this recent advance in England, Lady Campbell, who was originally selected to go there because she was one of Dr. Howe's best teachers at Perkins Institution, and who was afterwards for many years Lady Principal of the Royal Normal College—Lady Campbell, in her lecture on the Education of the Blind in England, writes: "While I do not think that any special training is needed for teaching blind children if a person has a normal training and possesses enthusiasm and initiative, this examination leads a teacher to study carefully the points wherein the work differs from that of the ordinary schools. For this examination the teacher is obliged to acquire a knowledge of the special apparatus used in schools for the blind. The candidates who pass with honours command the best salaries."

Let us glance for a moment at country day schools and especially at private boarding schools which are so flourishing and so numerous in our country. They profess to be among the best schools in the world, and probably are so. They choose their masters for what they are as men and as leaders of boys, not for any special preparation to teach, and they pay them large and attractive salaries. Such schools are never standardised except in so far as college entrance requirements force them to be so, but glory in being free and in-There is in this country a growdividual. ing society of educators calling itself The Progressive Teachers' Association. We should belong to it. A leader of it has been called from extraordinary success elsewhere to organise the latest thing in country day schools at Brookline, near Boston. In his printed announcement he says: "No teacher will be chosen for skill as a specialist unless she also has a real interest in the all round development of the child and is ready to subordinate her own

particular interests to the needs of that development."

Can our boarding schools for the blind longer afford to be thus free and independent? I doubt it. Neither can we afford to become standardised. Our immediate duty to our pupil wards should prevent this. Were we able to command the truly best masters and teachers we might perhaps also "gang our ain gait." However, we cannot now so command them because their proportion to pupils is very large-our pupil per capita cost is already deemed excessive. But our duty to the blind is to do everything reasonable to put them in line with the more fortunate, and to raise their social and industrial status through education. When public and private school instruction through moving picture visual education so-called — becomes much more common for fixing and clarifying knowledge than it is now, the blind learner will be still further handicapped in comparison with the sighted. children are in a special way clay in the hands of the potter. We try to select their teachers with care, but can we congratulate ourselves on our success? In the school over which I preside, one-fourth of all its teachers for the past thirty years have left after a single year of service. Yet I doubt if any school provides pleasanter conditions for its staff. Why do so many quit? Doubtless most resign to better themselves, the next number to better their prospects, realising as they come to do that experience so out of line as that which our schools furnish is worthless as testimonial in the common schools. The average educator regards ours rather as charity work than as educational—which is one of the prices we pay for regarding our pupils as wards of the state and for schooling them in institutions apart.

In order to have less experimenting in teachers we must be able to choose better initial material and to hold the best. One may not favour special preparation in advance, but one should favour expecting, if not requiring, it during service and testing it by some such plan as obtains in England, rewarding, of course, with the highest salaries those who become really the most proficient. These European methods certail less educational waste.

An increasing desire to diffuse both among teachers and students and among women's clubs a better general acquaintance with the education of the blind has been observable for the past decade. In 1914 three or four experts on the subject lectured on it at Columbia University in connection with the courses on allied topics. In the summer of 1918 a series of lectures on it was given at the University of California, and at sundry schools and associations for the blind. Then came in 1920-21 and 1922 the extension courses at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania. And these were followed at once by the summer school course for "home teachers "at Teachers' College, Columbia University, while, in 1921, the Teachers' College at Detroit, Michigan, offered lectures on the education of the blind. The series of lectures and demonstrations at Columbia is being repeated now with the addition of lectures, demonstrations, class discussions, and required reading on the instruction of sight-saving classes and on the history of the education of the blind.

But the first systematic normal course on the education of blind children, offering academic credit, was doubtless that given in the summer of 1921 by the George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee. Superintendent Wampler of the Tennessee School for the Blind there both initiated and successfully put the enterprise through. It was taught and led by two instructors of long experience, and attended by twenty teachers from five different schools for the blind. All resided at the local school, and so maintained the proper atmosphere. The curriculum consisted of lectures, reading, quizzes and a final examination, and covered, as intensively as possible in six weeks' time, kindergarten, primary and secondary school education, together with a brief survey of the general history of blindness and the blind. The course, extended by the addition of a third instructor to deal with manual training and the teaching of the semi-sighted, is being repeated this summer.

While a summer school now offers doubtless the most practical means for the better grounding of our present teachers, another

plan for teaching prospective teachers was successfully inaugurated last fall and winter. This is commonly styled the Harvard Course, and may be briefly described as follows: -The Graduate School of Education of Harvard University conducts an extension half-course on the Education of the Blind, three hours a week, week-ends, from October to February, consisting of lectures, visits and demonstrations, supplemented by required reading, schoolroom observation and practice in teaching under supervision; and it is capped at the close by a three-hour written examination of which the successful examinee is entitled to a certificate signed by the Dean of the Harvard School, the Director of the Division of the Blind, Massachusetts Department of Education, and the Director of Perkins Institution. The eleven students taking the regular course last year may be divided into two groups: teachers of semi-sighted classes of Greater Boston. who lived at home, and teachers and students who had arranged to live at Perkins. The latter came from several countries, and called themselves the international class. The Dean and Direcabove-mentioned are thoroughly interested to continue the project year after year. It will be repeated this fall and winter.

After the examination had been given in February, according to schedule, eight hours of Saturday morning lectures were added by special request on the causes of blindness and low vision, which twenty-two students came to Boston expressly to take, most of these being teachers of semisgipted classes in the various cities of eastern Massachusetts.

If the demand for teacher training continues, there is no doubt that the opportunity to meet it will be provided. A good deal of literature is even now available, though Mr. Irwin and Dr. Hayes and some other psychologists consider most of it as the "literature of opinion." The so-called Efficiency Committee has in mind the preparation of a manual much like those already mentioned as existing in German. (Mr. Allen here cites a list of available literature, of which we quote the English and American publications):—

- BOOKS ON THE HOME TRAINING OF BLIND CHILDREN.
- Allen, E. E. To the parents of seeing and blind children; translated from the report for 1893 of the Private Institution for the Blind in Linz, Upper Austria. Philadelphia, 1894; first appeared in The Mentor, April, 1894.
- Burritt, O. H. New opportunities for blind children before entering school; read before the First International Congress of Mothers on the Welfare of the Child. Washington, March, 1908.
- Dow, J. J. Home training of blind children; translated from the French of Maurice de la Sizeranne. Faribault, Minn., 1907.
- Halfpenny, A. K. Helps for the mother of a blind child. October, 1913.
- Howe, Samuel G. Counsels to parents of blind children, in the Supplement to the 43rd report of the Perkins Institution for the Blind. Boston, 1875.
- Lewis, F. Park. The blind child; reprinted from the New York Journal of Medicine. January, 1916.

Medicine. January, 1916.

What to do for blind children.
Chicago, 1913. American Medical
Association.

Knie, Johann. A guide to the proper management and education of blind children during their earlier years; translated from the German by William Taylor. London, 1861.

Rees, Harriet. Don't let it make any difference; in The Outlook for the Blind. October, 1908.

Robertson, W. Seed Bead Work.

BOOKS ON THE PEDAGOGY OF THE BLIND.

- American Association of Instructors of the Blind. Index of proceedings, 1922.
- Armitage, Thos. R. Education and employment of the blind. London, 1886.
- The Beacon, London. Articles on the Teachers' College. p. 5. May, 1920; April, 1921.
- The Blind, London. Articles on the Teachers' College. p. 356. July, 1920; p. 395. October, 1910; p. 343. Jan., 1915; p. 568. July, 1917.

- Guillie, Sebastien. An essay on the instruction and amusements of the blind. London, 1819.
- Howe, Samuel G. System of instruction and training, Perkins Institution report. 44th report. pp. 21-41. Boston, 1875.
- Illingworth, W. H. History of the education of the blind: The College of Teachers of the Blind, see pp. 149-152. London, 1910.
- Lane, A. M. Primary numbers through construction measuring, in The Outlook for the Blind. pp. 154-155. January, 1910.
- La Sizeranne, Maurice de. Blind as seen through blind eyes, translated by F. Park Lewis. N.Y., 1883.
- Levy, Hanks. Blindness and the blind; or, A treatise on the science of typhlology. 518pp. London, 1872.
- Meldrum, Robert. Light on dark paths, a handbook for members of school boards, teachers, parents of blind children. Edinburgh, 1891.
- Stainsby, Henry. The primary education of the blind.
- The Mentor, Boston. Instruction in the education of the blind, for common school teachers. January, 1892.
- Teacher of the Blind, London. pp. 33-35; 107-110. March, 1915; pp. 85-88. November, 1918; pp. 18-22. March, 1920; pp. 67-70. November, 1920. Articles on the Teachers' College.

General Articles on the Education of the Blind may be found in the following Periodicals and Reports:—

- American association of instructors of the blind. Proceedings. No. 1-25. 1871-1920.
- The Mentor, Boston. Vol. 1-4. 1891-1894.
- Outlook for the blind. Vol. 1-15. 1907-1921.
- International conference on the blind. Proceedings. 1908, 1911, 1914. See also Sundry reports of the Institutions of the Blind.

PRIZE DAY AT WORCESTER COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

THE annual prize-giving at Worcester College for the Blind took place on July 20th, when Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., Chairman of the Governors, presided. With him were Mr. A. L. Smith, Master of Balliol College, Oxford; the Rev. N. F. MacNeile, M.A. (one of the Governors); Mr. G. F. Mowatt, J.P. (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer); Mr. G. C. Brown, M.A., Headmaster; and members of the College staff.

In his opening address the Chairman alluded to the lamented death of Lord Cobham, with whom he had been associated in the College's affairs for the past 52 years-to the late Sir Arthur Pearson, whose interest in and work for the College were so well known-to the tragic death of Canon Southwell, a very great friend of the College. Sir Washington stated that the number of pupils had increased to 46. At the University of Oxford there were nine Worcester College students. in itself constituted sufficient testimony to the efficiency of the methods adopted at the College, and also to the Headmaster's understanding of the needs of the blind student. Sir Washington also expressed his appreciation of Mrs. Brown's contribution to the welfare of the College, and, in conclusion, he referred to the newly built boathouse, the gift of the National Institute for the Blind, and to the fact that the College was now enabled to place an eight on the river.

Mr. G. C. Brown gave a brief summary of the activities of the College during the year. He alluded to the death of the three Governors, Sir Arthur Pearson, Viscount Cobham and Canon Southwell. Through Sir Arthur's great work in awakening interest in the cause of the blind the College had been extended and its numbers increased; they had been presented with the Headmaster's house, had acquired a boathouse, and Sir Arthur had effected a great improvement in the books used at the College. Canon Southwell had been well-known at Worcester College,

and his loss was felt as that of a dear personal friend. As to Lord Cobham, he would always remember the encouragement he had given at the commencement of a difficult task-that of restoring the College to a state of stability. Turning to the year's work. Mr. Brown said that, judged by the ordinary standards, it had been successful. Every student who had entered for an examination had passed successully. The object of the school was to provide a suitable atmosphere in which the boys could develop. The standard of work in some of the upper forms was distinctly good, and they had some promising young pupils. As to school athletics, they had made gradual progress in rowing—the one sport in which they could excel.

Mr. Brown further said that during the past 56 years—a period which covered the existence of the school—they had to some extent solved the problem of secondary education for the blind. He hoped that they would not rest contented until they had solved the problem of employment for the blind. It worried him, however, to think what would happen to the 46 boys when they left the College. In occupations which entailed head rather than manual work the blind and partially sighted were possessed of capabilities which were not entirely appreciated, and there was a certain amount of reluctance on the part of employers to provide work for Though this was not a such persons. problem for the College, it was a matter which could with advantage be taken up by those responsible for the College—a matter which would become of increasing importance in the future.

The Master of Balliol, who distributed the prizes, afterwards addressed the company on the subject of education. A vote of thanks was then moved by Mr. G. F. Mowatt and seconded by the Rev. N. F. MacNeile, and afterwards the company was invited to tea on the lawn.

Following are the prizes and honours won during the College year:—

PRIZE LIST.

Classics, Old Boys' Union Prize.— W. H. Coates. Latin (a) L. R. Watson. Latin (b): R. Rees. Latin (c): M. Bates. Latin (d): E. Jorgenson. Latin (e): G. Miller. Greek: A. R. Lloyd.

Mathematics.—E. M. Lyon-Campbell, P. Wallace, L. W. Pritchard, E. Book-

Divinity.—(a) A. R. Lloyd, (b) A.

Ringwood, (c) P. A. Hughes.

French.—(a) L. R. Watson, (b) A. R. Lloyd, (c) V. Nelson, (d) A. Ringwood. English Prizes (in memory of H. R. Himing).-L. R. Watson, M. E. Collet,

C. D. Wheeler, A. Barry. English Essay.—L. R. Watson.

Economics and Industrial History.—I.

History.—P. Wallace, R. Bonham, V.

M. Taylor, P. A. Hughes.

English Verse Composition.—" Unconquered Everest," W. H. Coates.

Pianoforte (under 15).—A. Templeton.

Organ.—J. E. Runt.
Theory of Music.—G. Miller.
"Mowatt" Cup (for Chess Championship).-M. Bates.

Successes gained during school year 21-22 — W. Higley, Responsions, Oxford University; W. H. Coates, Barker Exhibition, Queen's College, Oxford and Fawcett Scholarship, Queen's College, Oxford; J. E. Hunt, Matriculation, Dur-ham University; A. Templeton, Associ-Board Pianoforte, Intermediate ated Honours; R. J. Hargreaves, Law, Preliminary, Oxford; H. H. Coldwell, History, Preliminary, Oxford; W. Higley, Rural Economy, Preliminary, Oxford; E. S. Woodley, B.A. Degree, St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford; E. I. Reed, Law Society, Intermediate; W. A. Fooks, Law Society Final (3rd Class Honours).

BLIND MASSAGE STUDENTS' SUCCESS

T HREE blind students, (two civilians and one ex-soldier) trained at the Massage School of the National Institute for the Blind, have successfully qualified in the recent Massage and Remedial Gymnastics Examinations of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics. Another civilian student, for whom the National Institute paid fees and expenses at a Liverpool Massage School, has also sat for and passed the Massage Examination. Two blind women students, already qualified in Massage, have successfully qualified in Remedial Gymnastics.

A BASKET-MAKING EXAMINATION

NDER the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, a Basketmaking Examination will be held at the Girdlers' Hall, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., on Tuesday, September 26th. Certificates of Merit, to be competed for by British subjects only, are offered for the best specimens of the following:-

Class 1. Hampers and Skeps.

Class 2. Market and Gardeners' Work.

Class 3. General Basket Work (Randed and Slewed).

Class 4. General Basket Work (Fitched).

Class 5. Cane and Wicker Furniture.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Certificates in each class will be awarded for good workmanship, according to merit.

The Westbury and Young Trust offer one Money Prize of £5 for originality of design, also the following Money Prizes: In each of the five classes a First Prize of £1 10s, and a Second Prize of 10s.

A separate section will be devoted to specimens of work of blind basketmakers under the above five classes, and similar Money Prizes will be awarded.

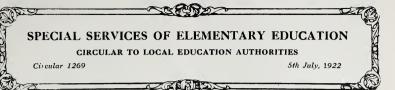
The work will be judged and awarded by examiners appointed by the Court of Assistants of the Company, who reserve to themselves the right to withhold all or either of the Prizes or Certificates, in the event of the workmanship not being considered by them to be of sufficient merit.

Applications for Conditions and Entry Forms should be made to:-

The Clerk.

The Basketmakers' Company, Gresham College, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

The last date for receiving entries, September 22nd, 1922. The baskets will be on exhibition and sale at the Girdlers' Hall, Basinghall Street, E.C., on Thursday, September 28th, 1922, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., by kind permission of the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Girdlers.



1. The Board of Education have now been able to compare the sum put at their disposal by Parliament for the purposes of grant towards the six Special Services of Elementary Education with the detailed estimates of Local Education Authorities for their expenditure on those services.

2. As regards Provision of Meals, that service has already been dealt with in the · Board's Circular No. 1261. As regards the remaining five services, namely, the School Medical Service, Special Schools, the Organisation of Physical Training, Evening Play Centres, and Nursery Schools, the Board find that the large economies already effected by Authorities themselves as a whole have brought their aggregate estimates within the total on which the Board are in a position to pay grant. It will not be necessary therefore for the Board to apply any general system of "rationing" to these five services, and they are now proceeding to consider each Authority's proposals on their merits.

3. In the case of the School Medical Service, the Board's scrutiny of the Authority's proposals will be directed mainly to seeing that the arrangements are in themselves efficient and economical, and that the total expenditure in each area is reasonable and appropriate. While, however, the Board will not be able to approve arrangements which in their opinion are extravagant and unnecessary in existing circumstances, it should be understood also that they will not be able to accept proposals which reduce or leave the Authority's arrangements for their essential Services below a reasonable level of efficiency in respect of their scope or the maintaining of efficient administration.

4. As regards Special Schools, the Board are glad to find that it will be possible to allow existing Schools for blind

and deaf children to be used to the full extent of their accommodation. restrictions therefore need be placed on the number of children sent to these Schools by individual Authorities, as the aggregate expenditure is not affected by the locality from which the children come, and the Board wish to leave the system as elastic as possible. The Board will extend the same arrangement to Schools for Cripple Children, to Open Air Schools, and to Schools for Mentally Defective The only Special Schools, in Children. fact, to which the Board cannot at present agree to apply this arrangement are the Sanatorium Schools for Tuberculous Children, and they must ask Authorities to restrict their expenditure in 1922-23 on this type of child to the level of their expenditure in 1921-22. The Board, however, will be prepared to consider on their merits cases in which the circumstances are abnormal and give rise to peculiar difficulties.

5. In the case of Nursery Schools, the Board will not, as a rule, be able to agree to the establishment of new Schools; but they will accept for grant any necessary expenditure incurred in the reasonable maintenance of existing Schools. The same general policy will apply to Evening Play Centres, except that the Board reserve the right to ask for a reduction of expenditure in any cases where continuance of these Centres appears to involve the sacrifice of some more essential services.

6. There remains for consideration the question of the Organisation of Physical Training. This is a relatively new Service which is still in an early stage of growth. But even a short experience has been sufficient to show the great value of the Service, and the Board would view its curtailment or the restriction of its gradual development with great regret. The cost

of this Service is so small that Authorities, when exploring all possible sources of economy in the cost of Elementary Education, may well give very careful attention to its special claims. The Board's own view is that this Service adds so greatly to the value of the work of the Schools, and from the point of view of the child's health is so potent an auxiliary in the prevention of debility and disease, that projected savings on the Service might reasonably be postponed till the possibilities of alternative savings on other Special Services or on ordinary Services have been fully tested.

The Board propose to issue very shortly a Circular dealing with the general lines on which the satisfactory Organisation of Physical Training can best be secured in any area. Meanwhile, they suggest that Authorities should defer any steps involving a reduction of the efficiency of this Service in their area until they have considered the matter in the light of the above

remarks.

7. In conclusion, the Board wish to add that their scrutiny of the separate Special Services which is necessitated by the demand for strict economy at the present time, has shown the need for a general review of these Services and for the introduction of more system and balance into the work as a whole. The Board propose at an early date to issue for the consideration of Authorities some suggestions as to the best methods of co-ordinating these Services in view of the experience of the past and the probable financial limitations of the future.

A. H. WOOD.

At the Handsworth Floral Fête and Exhibition, which was held on the 21st and 22nd July, the Gold Medal "for tools and models for use in blind instruction" was conferred on the Midland Branch of the National Institute for the Blind.

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THE AFTER-CARE DEPARTMENT of the National Institute for the Blind report that during the month of July 71 fresh cases came under their care (44 men and 27 women). Gifts to the number of 31 were provided at a cost of £99 10s. 9d. The number of visits paid was 38. The amount expended in training fees was £262 8s. 6d. and in relief £495 16s. 11d.

RAILWAY TRAVELLING FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN

A RRANGEMENTS have been made by the railway companies of Great Britain whereby any pensioner totally blinded as the result of war service, who is travelling for business purposes, accompanied by an attendant, may receive railway tickets for himself and attendant at reduced rates as from August 1st last. Tickets will be issued at the booking office at half-fare rates on the surrender of a certificate on Form M.P.F. 219, which may be obtained from any Local War Pensions Committee. If the attendant travelling with a pensioner is a child under 12 years of age tickets will be issued to both pensioner and attendant at a combined cost equivalent to one ordinary fare. Applications for the issue of season tickets, accompanied by a certificate on Form M.P.F. 219, must be made direct to the Headquarters of the Railway Company concerned.

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THE Golden Anniversary of the Ontario School for the Blind was celebrated in June, on the closing day of term. An entertaining programme of music and plays was excellently rendered by the pupils, each number being greeted with vociferous applause. One of the features of the evening was the presentation, on behalf of the ex-pupils and the alumni, of a beautiful grandfather clock. The presentation was made by Mr. S. C. Swift, M.A., who in his address paid a high tribute to the school, and urged the pupils to live up to its traditions.



Mrs. Carrie Jacobs-Bond, whose song, "The End of a Perfect Day," has had a sale of some 5,000,000 copies, declined all offers to appear in public during her visit to England, but she made one exception in favour of the Royal College of the Blind at Norwood, which put forward an appeal for £75,000 for its endowment in this its Jubilee year. Besides several other songs, Mrs. Jacobs-Bond sang "The End of a Perfect Day," and told her audience how she had composed it quietly at her home near San Diego.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

WE have received a notice of the autumn course of lectures to be held at Harvard University and conducted by the Graduate School of Education, with the co-operation of the Massachusetts Department of Education. Division of the Blind, and the Perkins Institution for the Blind. This is an extension course consisting of lectures, accompanied by demonstrations and practical exercises for teachers of the blind and the semi-sighted and workers with the adult blind. Mr. Edward E. Allen, Director of the Perkins Institution for the Blind and Secretary of the Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind, will conduct the course and give a number of the lectures. With Mr. Allen will be associated Mr. Charles B. ·Hayes, Director of the Division of the Blind, Massachusetts Department of Education. Other students of problems connected with the blind will give occasional lectures dealing with special topics. The course will meet regularly for lectures and class discussions on Fridays. from 4 to 5, and demonstrations will be conducted in institutions in the vicinity of Cambridge on Saturday mornings,

The hours have been arranged to make it possible for teachers, school nurses, public health nurses, social workers, and volunteers, whose interests already include work with the blind, as well as for those wishing to fit themselves for service in this special field, to attend both the lectures

and the demonstrations.

Reading will be assigned to accompany the lectures, and reports of the demonstrations and practical exercises will be required for those who wish credit for the

course.

The first meeting of the course will be held on Friday, October 6th, at 4 o'clock in Room 12, Lawrence Hall, Kirkland Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts. A three-hour examination will cover the work of the course at its conclusion. The fee is 10 dollars, payable in advance.

So far as time permits, the following topics, and possibly others, will be covered

by the lectures and reading:

The Blind of the Past and of To-day; Types of Blindness; Sketches of Celebrated Elind People; What the Public Should Know about the Blind; Recreations and Pastimes among Blind People; The Social Status of the Blind; Literature on Blindness and the Blind; The Human Eve and the Causes of Blindness and Low Vision: History and Progress of the Movement for the Prevention of Blindness; Public and Private Provision for the Blind; Home Teaching for the Adult; History of the Education of the Blind; Means and Methods Used in Teaching; Education of the Blind Child—before School Age, in Residential Schools, in Public Day Schools: Psychology of Blindness and of the Blind; The Socialisation of the Blind Child; The Teacher of the Blind; School Curricula: The Teaching of School Subjects; Border-line Pupils; The Deaf Blind; The Movement for the Separate Teaching of the Semi-Sighted; The Evolution of Embossed Systems of Reading; Libraries of Embossed Books; Vocational Training and Employment of the Blind.

Inquiries concerning the aims, scope, and content of the course should be addressed to Mr. Edward E. Allen, Director of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts. Inquiries concerning registration, academic credit, other opportunities for study open to students enrolled for the course, and similar questions should be addressed to Professor Henry W. Holmes, Dean of the Graduate School of Education, 5, Lawrence Hall, Cambridge, Massachusetts.



E. M. BOWDEN, who died at his home near Rockdale, Texas, at the age of 70, was widely known as a successful farmer, although he had been totally blind for the last sixty years of his life. He kept in close touch with the work upon his farm, doing much of it himself. His leisure time was devoted to discussing public questions with his neighbours. In order that he might go from place to place on his farm Mr. Bowden devised and constructed an overhead trolley system, and by following the wires which were strung upon short poles he was able to get about without assistance. One day a neighbour who called on him found him building a rail fence.

A JUBILEE GIFT TO MISS CAMPBELL

A S our readers are aware, the present year marks the 50 years' jubilee of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood. Coincident with this event is the jubilee of one of its first pupils, Miss Amelia Campbell, whose 50 years connection with the College—as pupil and as teacher—was fittingly celebrated on July 8th by the presentation of a cheque, the gift of past and present pupils, the resident staff, former members of that body and other friends. The originator of this jubilee gift was Mr. Alfred Hollins, Mus.Doc., who was Miss Campbell's contemporary in the earliest days of the College.

A large number of past and present pupils were welcomed in the College Hall by Lady Campbell—then on a visit to England from the United States-and Mrs. Guy Campbell. After a short musical programme rendered in part by past pupils of the College, Lady Campbell gave some interesting reminiscences of the College and of Miss Campbell's scholastic career and her success as a vocalist. Sir Francis Campbell had realised that, in order to convince the public of the merits of his pupils as musicians, it was necessary for them to appear on the concert platform. Miss Campbell made a successful appearance at St. James's Hall, where she sang the solos in "Hear My Prayer" at an orchestral concert, concerning which the Times musical critic wrote: "Miss Campbell's sweet voice and unaffected pathos went straight to the hearts of the audience." In 1886 Miss Campbell and three other pupils accompanied Sir Francis to the United States, where she sang with great success. Of Miss Campbell's talent as a teacher, of her readiness to employ her great gift to cheer the old, the sick, and the lonely, Lady Campbell spoke in glowing terms, adding that the gifts which had arrived in response to Mr. Hollins' suggestion formed sufficient proof of the loving regard in which she was held by friends and pupils.

In acknowledging the gift, Miss Campbell expressed her joy at meeting that day so many of her old friends. She related amusing incidents connected with her early days at the College, and spoke of the influence exercised upon her work and her every-day life by the late Sir Francis Campbell. It would be her endeavour to place constantly before her pupils the necessity of earnestness in their work and of loyalty to their Alma Mater.

During the course of the afternoon Miss Campbell sang several songs, and the fine qualities of her voice and her clear enunciation were admired by all who heard her.

A vote of thanks to Lady Campbell and to Mr. and Mrs. Hollins was moved by Mr. Walter Dixson and seconded by Mr. Percy Williams, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought the proceedings to an appropriate conclusion.



EXAMINATION SUCCESSES AT ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE

ASSOCIATED BOARD, School Examinations. (Pianoforte Playing.)

Primary Division: Brand, Margaret (Distinction); Campbell, Margaret (Distinction); Gates, Edwin (Distinction); Lloyd, Kathleen (Distinction).

Elementary Division: Clydesdale, Robert.

Lower Division: Escott, Eustace; Ephraume, Arthur; Gibson, Lance; Raalte, Stanley (Distinction).

Higher Division: Easter, Florence.

The Musical Successes during the month at the Royal College of Organists are as follows:—

Fellowship: Percival Dean (Turpin Prize); Harold Uttley.

Associateship: Leonard Harding (Saw-yer Prize); James Saunders.

These successes now bring the number of College Associates up to fifty-eight and Fellowships to twenty-four. The Lafontaine, Sawyer and Turpin Prizes have now each been won three times.

In addition to the above, Mr. W. L. Wilson (who studied at the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind) has also obtained the Associateship Diploma.

These successes bear very tangible witness to the high standard of the musical training in Institutes for the Blind.

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

ROYAL VICTORIA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, BENWELL DENE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—A successful year's work is reported by this Institution. The school has been full during the year, and there is a waiting-list of some twenty pupils. The net sales of goods amounted to £927. The expenditure on wages and bonuses in the Industrial Department was £1,275, and the sum of £1,051 was paid in gratuities to blind workers. Legacies totalling the sum of £419 10s. 10d. were received during the year.

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At the annual meeting of the Northampton and County Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, at the Town Hall on July 25th, suggestions were made for bringing the work of the blind more prominently before the notice of the public. The Mayor (Alderman G. S. Whiting), who presided, said that he thought he could prevail on the Markets Committee to allow the Blind Association the use of a pitch on the Market-square on Saturdays. The stall might each week be kept by a member of the Committee, and he would volunteer to take the first Saturday. It would probably be found possible to include a demonstration at the stall by one or two of the blind workers.

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METROPOLITAN AND ADJACENT COUNTIES ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

—The 14th Annual Report of this Association is to hand. The special features to be noted during the year are (1) The continuous growth of the after-care work. (2) The promulgation by the various County and County Borough Councils of their schemes under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and the co-operation of the Association under such schemes. It

should be noted that the Home-Workers' Scheme for the area north of the Thames is now in operation under the control and management of The London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind (Swiss Cottage), and considerable progress has been made. In the report it is hoped that the National Institute for the Blind will be able to comply with the invitation of the Ministry of Health, and form a like scheme for the area south of the Thames. In this connection it will be remembered by readers of The Beacon that a suggested scheme has already been submitted by the National Institute for the Blind to Borough and Town Councils in the area specified, and that further action is now pending until the reports on this scheme are to hand.

On March 31st, 1922, the number of blind persons on the Register of the Association was 10,484, divided as follows:

Berks		267
Essex		1,057
Hants		931
		248
Kent		1,067
London	n	4,822
Middle	sex	703
Surrey		550
		839
Guerns	ey and Channel Islar	ıds —

Total ... 10,484

The 4,822 in London are divided as follows:—

Battersea	150
Bermondsey	124
Bethnal Green	107
Camberwell	318
Chelsea	166
City of London	10
Deptford	88

Finsbury	107
Fulham	125
Greenwich	116
Hackney	224
Hammersmith	102
Hampstead	62
Holborn	47
Islington	481
Kensington	175
Lambeth	301
Lewisham	116
Paddington	153
Poplar	169
St. Marylebone	207
St. Pancras	274
Shoreditch	232
Southwark	251
Stepney	191
	26
Stoke Newington	248
Wandsworth	
Westminster	159
Woolwich	93
m . 1	1.000
Total	4,822
-	

THE MUSIC LIBRARIAN OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

We regret to learn that the National Library has decided to economise by dispensing with the services of their Music Librarian, a post which has been so ably filled during the last six years by Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus.B., F.R.C.O.

Mr. Spanner has transcribed many valuable works, thus most effectively supplementing the output of the National He has Institute's Music Department. helped many musicians in tight corners by copying out, most expeditiously, pieces required for some special emergency; and his activities have, perhaps, found their maximum usefulness in providing month by month for the Braille Musical Magazine reviews of music published at the Institute or transcribed by the Library. These reviews have been particularly serviceable in that they give just that concise information of the current music accessible in Braille which enables the blind musician to select exactly what he requires.

ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFI-CATED BLIND MASSEURS

THE work of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs has been carried on with considerable success, in spite of all-round financial depression due to prevailing trade conditions. In their third annual report the Council of the Association express their confidence in the continued recognition of their efforts to assist, and to secure the status of blind masseurs and masseurs

The Council records the death of their first President, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., and state that it was largely through his energies that the Association was originally formed and duly registered and incorporated under the Board of Trade in 1919. In its initial stages practical help was rendered by Sir Arthur, who ever retained the keenest interest in its welfare. Sir Robert Jones, K.B.E., C.B., F.R.C.S., the famous orthopædic surgeon, became President of the Association last January.

In June it was agreed that a definite grant should be allocated to the Association by the National Institute for the Blind and St. Dunstan's, so that the work of the Association might be carried out on a larger scale than hitherto. The Association has been elected to representation in the Federation of Medical and Allied Services. Mr. Edmund Toft, the Vice-Chairman, was elected to represent the Association on the Council of Allied Professions and the Executive Council of the Federation

The total membership to date is 168, 95 of these being blinded soldier masseurs. 34 civilian masseurs, and 39 masseuses. All these members are fully qualified and hold the recognised certificates of the profession. During the period under review there have been issued from the Association's offices 4,448 letters on behalf of members to the medical profession, nursing homes, hospitals, etc. A further 3,741 letters have been despatched, and 1,750 have been received by the Secretary. Sixty-one cases, all under medical supervision, have been allocated to members by the Secretary. Other cases have not only been sent on by medical men as a result of

publicity, but have also been allocated by them on account of their recognition of the excellent work done by members of this Association.

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BRITISH BLIND COMPOSERS I N the July issue of The Music Teacher very special reference is made to British Blind Composers and the National Institute Edition of their works. In the monthly column headed "The Month's Best Music," no less than eleven out of the fourteen pianoforte pieces of the National Institute for the Blind Catalogue are singled out for this distinction by Mr. Ernest Fowles, F.R.A.M., who says: "Teachers throughout the land should make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the Edition," while he commends the Institute's scheme as "this truly noble effort." In another column, four out of the six organ works come under review, two being singled out for high commendation.

Incidentally, it may interest readers of The Beacon to learn that four "School Songs" recently published by Messrs. Bosworth & Co., and composed by Mr. Edward Watson (Editor of the National Institute Edition), are placed in "The Month's Best Vocal Music" column.

Finally, in the 16th of June issue of the Blackpool Times, the Editor, Mr. Henry Wyatt (himself a musician of considerable attainments and a member of the Blackpool Festival Committee) contributed a lengthy and detailed review of the entire catalogue of the Edition, in the course of which he writes:—

"It is no idle claim that the edition ' is exclusively devoted to selected works of high artistic value by blind composers of distinction.' Some, if not all, of the compositions should be found in the library of every true music-lover, and one or two are worthy of the consideration of Festival make this assertion I Committees. boldly, not as a kindly critic, but as a musician who has studied every one of the 25 compositions to the extent of playing or singing every note, and from a musical experience extending over a period of 37 years, it is my "considered opinion" that in this edition British composers—there is no question of sympathy for the blind, the works under review do not need this adventitious aid—have proved themselves quite the equals of any modernists of the French or Russian schools of composition

AN INTERLUDE

Here in these pine woods where the breath of eve

Distils sweet odours from vast Nature's store,

Where melody and old romance do weave Love tales retold a myriad times and more; I listened as so oft I'd done of yore, Yet, ever and anon it seemed to me,

Though waves may wildly lash you rugged shore

Where storm clouds break, eternity must be.

The bird I'm wont to hear in yon sweet dell

At eventide, recalls some sacred hours When in the heyday of our youth, the well Of pleasures unalloyed, failed not, and flowers,

Loveliest blooms of every shade and hue, In all, a rich festoon of glorious sheen, Made holiday of life for me and you.

The song I'm wont to hear in this fair dell

At gloaming tide, hath braced my soul to

With fortitude, life's darker days, and fell With Vulcan might the demon lie; my feet

So oft upon this holy ground have trod, But grim forebodings made me oft retreat, Ere I had learned that this way leads to God.

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ON June 24th an interested audience, consisting of students, staff and a number of guests, met in the Hall of Worcester College for the Blind to hear an address delivered by Mr. John Masefield. The subject was Stories and Story-Telling, and the poet illustrated his lecture by narrating some delightful sea-yarns and other tales, interspersed with renderings of his own poems. Afterwards the Headmaster and Mrs. Brown entertained Mr. and Mrs. Masefield to tea.

BLIND STUDENT'S SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENT

A MONGST the students who have just secured a first-class in the final school of jurisprudence at Oxford is Mr. T. H. Tylor, of Balliol. His is a remarkable achievement, as Mr. Tylor is blind For the past four years he has enjoyed a scholarship from the National Institute for the Blind, and many of the Braille textbooks used by him in his studies were lent to him by the manuscript department of the National Institute, the books having been specially prepared for the use of blind students of law.

It is interesting to recall that Sir Washington Ranger, D.C.L., Chairman of the National Institute, also obtained during his university career first-class honours in the Jurisprudence School at Oxford, and was proxime accessit for the Vinerean Law Scholarship. We believe that his achievement, prior to that of Mr. Tylor, was the only case of a blind student securing first-class honours in jurisprudence at Oxford. Sir Washington Ranger still enjoys the distinction of being the only blind D.C.L., that degree having been obtained by him in 1881.

AMERICAN scientists are taking a deep interest in the case of a young girl of 17, Willetta Huggins, who, it is stated, although totally blind and deaf, can "see and hear" through the senses of smell and touch. She demonstrated to the satisfaction of physicians and scientists that she could hear perfectly over the telephone by placing her finger-tips over the receiver, and listen to conversation with her friends by placing her fingers on the speakers' chest, vocal cords or head. She can discern certain colours by the sense of smell.



The Rev. G. M. Llewellyn, M.A., B.D., Rector of Llandow, in the Vale of Glamorgan, has been awarded the degree of LL.B., with second-class honours, at Dublin University. Mr. Llewellyn has been completely blind since boyhood.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

August, 1922		
FICTION.		
Haggard, H. Rider. Fair Margaret Howells, W. D. Through the Eye of a	5	vols.
Needle	3	vols.
James, rt. Impressions of a Cousin	2	vols.
James, M. R. More Ghost Stories of an	_	
Antiquary Lowndes, Wrs. Belloc. Good Old Anna Locke, W. J. A Study in Shadows Wells, H. G. Loon and Peter	3	vols.
Locke W I A Study in Shedows	2	vols.
Wells, H. G. Joan and Peter	11	vols.
	11	vois.
MISCELLANEOUS.		
A Priest. Return from Rome		vol.
E. M. Georgian Poetry, 1918-1919		vols.
Fell, E. F. B. Personal Liberty		vols.
*Fenn, G. Manville. Nephew Jack Forbes, F. A. Life of St. Paul		vols.
Forbes, F. A. Life of St. Paul Forbes, F. A. St. Vincent de Paul		vol.
Hartland, E. S. (ed. by). English Fairy	1	VOI.
and other Folk Tales	4	vols.
Littledale, R. F. Words for Truth	2	vols.
Littledale, R. F. Words for Truth Louismet, Dom S. Divine Contemplation		
for All	3	vols.
MacGregor, D. H. Evolution of Industry	3	vols.
Mackail, J. W. Life of William Morris	11	vols.
Mackail, J. W. Life of William Morris Powell, F. York. History of England		
(Part 1) Thompson, A. H. English Monasteries	8	vols.
Trevelyan, J. P. A Short History of the	2	vols.
Italian Popula	0	vols.
Italian People Wakeman, H. O. History of Religion in	0	vois.
England	2	vols.
	_	
GRADE III.		
Wilde, Oscar. Importance of Being Earnest		
Earnest	1	vol.
FOREIGN.		
Bradby, H. C. (ed. by). Memoirs of		
Madame Campan (1785-92)	3	vols.

Wagnalls, M. Miserere ...

... 1 vol.

ESPERANTO.

A SOUTHPORT correspondent to the Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury, who states that he has been blind for some years, writes, in reference to the question of a multiplicity of pockets, that the cure for the bewilderment which some people experience is classification. In the interest of promptitude and accuracy, he finds it convenient to have at least ten pockets in a suit of clothes, and he reserves them for the following purposes:—(1) Pocket-book, (2) £1 notes, (3) 10s. notes, (4) silver, (5) copper, (6) letters, (7) watch, (8) pocket-knife and piece of string, (9) railway and tram tickets, and (10) handkerchief.

^{*} Stereotyped.

OUR BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the August Numbers

Progress.—Trees—To Sleep (Henry IV)—Sheller as Poet and Prose-Writer—'To-morrow,' by Sheller —The End of the Story—Garden Notes (August)—National Library for the Blind—Our Prize Competitions—Correspondence—Apparatus for the Blind (concluded) — Matters of the Moment — National Institute for the Blind: Annual Report—Prairie Voices—Advertisements—The Question-Box—Chess—Our Home Page.

The Literary Journal.—Shelley—Mrs. Asquith East and West—The Sixth Sense—Keeping the Sabbath—The Farmer's Neglected Friends—Narional Library for the Blind—Massage Library—£30,000 for the "Old Vic."

Sehool Magazine.—The Story of Famous Books (IJ)
"Pendennis," by William Makepeace Thackeray to
be continued) — Wasps, by Canning Williams—
Railway Engines ("Little Folks") — Sir Richard
Whittington ("My Magazine")—Queries—In Far
Kannchatka ("Wide World Magazine")—The
Philosophy of Clothes (from "Sartor Resartus," by
Thomas Carlyle) — Biography in Brief: Spinoza
(1632–1677)—The Querent Foods in the World, by
Bassett Dighy, F.R.G.S.—A Conqueror of the
Desert—Learnin" (Poem), by Patrick Macgill—The
Adder ("Little Folks.")

Comrades. — Fur-Traders in Canada, by R. M. Ballantyne—The Fishing Village (from "Familiar Friends at Home," by Margaret Cameron, L.L.A.)
—The Fairy Fiddler, by Christine Chaundler—The Naughty Child (Grade I), by Madeline Barnes—Puzzles—The World's Bread and Butter ("Children's Encyclopædia")—The Plaint of the Camel (Poem).

Musical Magazine.—The Centenary of the R. A. M.
—Modern Fingering for Scales—Musical Successes—
The Music Librarian at the National Institute for
the Blind—Correspondence—Advertisement—Notes
and News concerning the Blind—Musical Opposites:
Paganini—A Good Offer—Notes on News—Jubilee
Presentation—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews—
Insets: Piano, "Romanze in D flat," by J. Sibelius;
Organ, "Trio in C minor," by J. S. Bach.

Massage Journal, being the official organ of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs.— Fourth Annual General Meeting — Obituary — Arthritis Deformans (concluded), by Charles W. Buckley, M.D.—The Objective Study of Neurosis (II) (from "The I ancet"), by F. L. Golla, M.B. Oxon., F.R.C.P. London.

Hampstead Magazine.—Lords of the Nimble Pack, by Edgar Wallace—Creatures of Habit, by E. Temple Thurston—What Trade Means to You— Stories for all Moods—Best Stories.

Santa Lucia.—Ants that Grow Crops—The Great Impersonation, chapters 18-19 (to be continued), by E. Phillips Oppenheim—The Pathway of the Wireless Wave—Datu Sen and his Paradise—Redskins Dig up the Hatchet—The Ocean as a Gold Mine.

The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. Annual subscription 7s. 6d., abroad 11s. 6d.

The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—Orange Blossom—Railroad Expenses—Saving Towns from the Sea—Quaint Toilets—Some Maori Customs— When Hindus Travel.

Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world day by day, keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. Subscription, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.

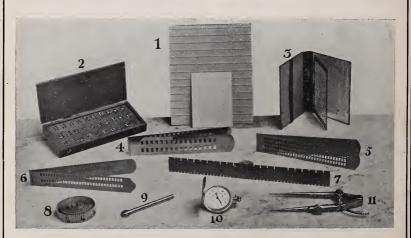
Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs, as well as a Sporting Page. Subscription Rates:—Inland, 2d. per copy (3d. post free), 8s. per year (inland and abroad).

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



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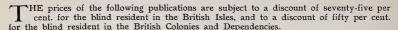
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications



MUSIC

5536 "In the Beginning was the Word" (Christmas Anthem), by E. H. Thorne (Vertical Score)

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Marchant, M. Youngest Sister ...

Thorn-Ismay. Bab Somerville, E. Œ. An Enthusiast

Arthur, Sir George. Life of Lord

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Kitchener

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Page, Gertrude. Love in the Wilderness 5 vols.
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Moore, D. Terry the Girl Guide

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or American Organ," by J. S. Anderson (Bar by Bar)			5 1	11
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5545 "Album Joyeux" (12 Petits Morceaux), Book 2, Nos. 7-12, by P. Zilcher (Bar by Bar			_	
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5546 "I'd love to fall asleep" (Song Fox-Trot), by F. E. Ahlert (Bar by Bar)			2	0
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5551 "Wangaloo" (Vocal One-Step or Fox-Trot), by G. Williams (Bar by Bar)		•••	2	0
Song				
5552 "Casey the Fiddler," by Haydn Wood (D: Compass, C to E')			2	0
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5553 "O Lovely Peace!" from "Judas Maccabæus" (Soprano and Contralto), by Handel			2	1
TRAVEL				
5290 In Morocco (Wharton) (Carnegie)	Vol. 1		14	
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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE	BLIND			
September, 1922				
FICTION. Carpenter, W. Boyd, Bish-				
Atherton, Gertrude. Travelling Thirds 3 vols. Tangled Thread				
Bennett, Arnold. The Regent 5 vols. Euripides. Electra (trans. C				
Grey, Zane. Border Legion 5 vols. E. W. Austin Memorial Fo				
Locke, W. I. The Usurper 5 vols. Goethe, J. W. von. Wilhelr	n meister	3		

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Lucas, E. V. Phantom Journal ...

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Morris, W. Defence of Guinevere and

Zimmern, A. E. Europe in Convalescence

Viceroys: Reminiscences of a Gurkha

A Wanderer's Experiences ...

T. Carlyle).

other Poems Woodyatt, Major General.

*Grenfell, W. T.

and

Travels (trans.

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14 vols.

4 vols.

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5 vols.

TREBEACON

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

Vol. VI.-No. 70.

OCTOBER, 1922.

PRICE 3D.
35. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND

3rd Annual Report to the Minister of Health



HE Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts, M.P., and Vice-Chairmanship of P. M. Evans, Esq., I.L.D., have issued their Third Annual Report to the Minister of Health. In view of the passing of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, this Committee was

reconstituted in April, 1921, in order that representation might be secured to County and County Borough Councils, Boards of Guardians and Voluntary Agencies for the Blind. The vacancies created in the Committee by the death of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., and Mr. H. J. Munro were filled by the election of Canon Glossop, to represent the Association of Poor Law Unions, and Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General, National Institute for the Blind and Hon. Registrar, College of Teachers of the Blind, as a representative of Voluntary Agencies for the Blind.

With reference to Section I. of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, the report states that on the 31st March, 1922, 9,107 blind persons in England and Wales were in receipt of Old Age Pensions. The Committee are of opinion that this provision for blind persons between the ages of 50 and 70 has done much to alleviate distress among the unemployable blind.

As regards Section II. of the Act, which imposes on County and County Borough Councils the duty of promoting the welfare of blind persons resident in their area, by providing and maintaining workshops, homes, etc.—it is anticipated that the majority of the schemes submitted by Local Authorities to the Minister of Health will be in operation during the present year. The Committee note with approval that in the administration of this clause it is proposed to make full use of existing agencies for the blind. They are emphatically of the opinion that the best interests of the blind will be served by the continuance and fostering of the voluntary side of the work, and note with pleasure that this is the declared policy of the Ministry of Health. The Blind Persons Act empowers a Local Authority, with the consent of the Minister of Health, to establish municipal workshops, but it is anticipated that full use will be made of voluntary effort, and in this connection the following general principles recommended by the Committee :-

(a) That should a workshop for the blind become necessary in a district where there is already established a Voluntary Agency, such Agency should be urged to make the necessary provision rather than the Local Authority. The latter, how-

ever, should be encouraged to give every assistance, financial and otherwise.

(b) That in those districts where a Voluntary Agency does not exist, the appropriate Counties' Association should be requested to take steps to form such an Agency for the purpose of conducting a workshop and other services.

Owing to general trade depression a number of workshops for the blind have cither been closed down temporarily, or the employees have been placed on short time. In order that blind workers should be kept fully employed, the Committee urge Local Authorities to place as many orders as possible with Institutions for the Blind. A recommendation to this effect has been incorporated in a memorandum (64/B.D.) recently issued by the Ministry to County and County Borough Councils. On the advice of the Advisory Council for London, the London County Council have decided to supply Agencies in London with printing, stationery and office requisites at cost price, plus a charge for administrative expenses, further to obtain all articles required by the Council and made by the blind at prices to be fixed by the Stores and Contracts Committee of the Council.

In connection with the education of blind children under 16 years of age, the Committee note with gratification that the restrictions of grants anticipated by the Board of Education in Circulars 1245 and 1246 issued in January, 1922, have been withdrawn, and that full use of the accommodation already recognised will be available. As regards the training of blind persons over 16 years of age, the Board have decided to permit existing Voluntary Institutions to expand up to the limit of their present accommodation, and to approve the recognition of a number of additional Voluntary Institutions for training purposes. As general edu-cation and specialised instruction are matters of such vital importance to the blind worker, the Committee emphasise the necessity of proper selection and training in the case of craft teachers. In this spirit they express their appreciation of the Course for Craft Instructors, held at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, in May, 1922, and the hope that the success attendant upon this experiment will encourage the College of Teachers of the Blind to hold further courses at regular intervals.

The Committee have had under consideration the question of the augmentation of wages of blind workshop employees, and have recommended augmentation on a sliding scale providing for a maximum grant of 15/- a week on earnings up to 10/- a week, at standard rates of pay, decreasing by 3d. in the shilling to a minimum of 5/- a week augmentation where the wages are 50/- a week or more. This scale has been recommended to the consideration of the Local Authorities by the Minister of Health.

The Committee note the extension of the Home Workers' service, particularly in the Manchester area and in the Metropolitan and Home Counties' area north of the Thames, and the proposed extension in the Metropolitan and Home Counties' area south of the Thames. As a consequence of these schemes some 700 to 800 blind persons, who have hitherto been left largely to their own devices, have been included in organised schemes, and their earnings have appreciably increased. As a condition of grant for this service it has been laid down by the Ministry that the earnings of men shall amount to 16/- and of women to 8/- a week before full grant is payable, and that where the earnings are less than these amounts proportionate grant only will be payable. The Committee express the opinion that the conditions under which Homeworkers carry on their various industries make it difficult for them to earn these amounts, and that the reduction in the amount of grant payable constitutes a hardship and a discouragement to both Homeworkers and supervising agencies. They therefore recommended that the full grant be paid in respect of all Homeworkers whose average weekly earnings are not less than 10/in the case of men and 5/- in the case of women. They regret that, owing to financial reasons, the Ministry are unable to entertain this proposed alteration, and trust that the matter may be reconsidered when more normal conditions prevail.

Considerable progress is reported in the extension and improvement of the

Home Teaching branch of work for the blind. It is estimated that 65 sighted and 144 blind or partially blind Home Teachers are at the present time employed by the various agencies in the country. In order to secure a more definite status for all persons who come within the category of Home Teachers, Social and Welfare Visitors, and Supervisors and Visitors under the Home Workers' Schemes, the Committee suggest that it should be made obligatory for them to undergo examination and obtain certification, as recommended by the College of Teachers of the Blind. A syllabus suitable for such examination has been suggested by the College of Teachers, and includes the following subjects: Braille, Moon, Manual Alphabet, Professional Knowledge, and Pastime Occupations. With regard to the fourth subject, Professional Knowledge, this would include questions on Hygiene, Machinery of Administration, and so forth, as well as examination as to knowledge of:-

(a) Schools, Workshops, Homes, Pension Societies, etc., for the Blind.

(b) Medical assistance, $e \cdot g \cdot$, Hospitals, Sanatoria, Homes of Rest, etc., available for the Blind of the district.

(c) Legislation relating to the Blind, Deaf and Mentally Defective.

(d) Insurance (Health, Unemployment,

etc.).

(e) How to procure Legal Advice.

(f) Postal information, travelling facilties, etc.

The Committee are of opinion that both blind and sighted persons should be eligible for examination and appointment as Home Teachers, and that the salary of a certificated Home Teacher should be not less than £156 per annum.

With regard to the centralisation of collections recommended by the previous Advisory Committee—this matter is still

in abeyance.

Appended to the Report is a tabular statement showing the main classification of the blind as extracted from the Central Register on the 1st of April, 1921. On that date there were registered 34,894 blind persons, as compared with 30,785 on the 1st April, 1920. The increase is accounted for by more complete records

having been obtained and not by an increase in the actual number of blind persons. Of these 302 are under the age of five years, 2,563 between the ages of five and sixteen, while of those over 16 and upwards, 8,120 are employed, 900 unemployed, 1,114 are under training, 4,666 have no training, and 17,229 are unemployable. The following table shows the number of blind persons returned as employed in various occupations as at 1st April. 1921:—

as at 1st April, 192	-1			
Agents, Collectors,				224
Basket and Canewo	rkers		1	,588
Beggars			• • •	90
Boot Repairers			• • •	213
Brush Makers				400
Carpenters		• • •		21
Clergymen				47
Clerks and Typists	•••	• • •	• • •	87
Dealers (Tea Agen		• • •		334
Domestic Servants	• • •	•••		113
Farmers	• • •	• • •		49
Hawkers	• • • •	• • •	•••	523
Knitters				856
Labourers (Agri General)	cultur	al	and	
	• • • •	•••		168
Massage	• • •	• • •	• • • •	107
Mat Makers				394
Mattress Makers				45
Musicians and Sing				562
Netting				25
News Vendors				246
Poultry Farmers				111
Schoolmasters, etc.				133
Seamstresses and U	Jpholst	erers		19
Tuners (including	Musica	1 and	In-	
strument Make	rs)			456
Miscellaneous			1	,309
			_	
Total			8	,120

It has been ascertained that 7,056 blind persons are, in addition to blindness, otherwise defective. Of this number 1,383 are mentally defective, 3,596 are physically defective, 1,368 are deaf, and 709 are both mentally and physically defective as well as deaf. With a total blind population of 34,894 it may be said that 40 per 1,000 are mentally defective, whilst it is estimated that the sighted population of this country numbers about 8 per 1,000 persons thus handicapped.

So far no organised attempt has been made to deal with the mentally defective blind. The problem resolves itself into (1) provision for those who are trainable, and (2) provision for those who are untrainable. The Advisory Committee are now obtaining more detailed particulars concerning the number of persons in each of these categories, and after due investigation they hope to make definite recommendations on this subject.

With respect to chronically infirm blind persons, the Committee are of opinion that a special Home should, if possible, be provided and conducted by Voluntary Agencies, and they are obtaining particulars of the number of persons requiring institutional care, in order that they may explore further possibilities in this direc-

tion.

MACHINES FOR THE BLIND

ACCORDING to Popular Science Sifeings German practice in breaking in blinded soldiers on machine and tool work has emphasised the fact that the blind operator is in considerably more danger of inadvertently engaging his free hand with the machine than the sighted worker. The difficulty has been met in ingenious fashion-by robbing him of the free hand. Machines for operation by the blind men are now designed especially for this purpose, and in such a fashion that the operator is forced to exercise a two-handed control. Both his hands are continually on the handles and levers-and he is therefore in no danger of getting one of them in the path of a tool.

BLIND MAN'S ACHIEVEMENT

MARC Blanchard, a blind man of 25, has gained the third place in the examination for the Grammar Scholarships in the University of Paris. Trained from boyhood to believe that his blindness was no bar to sharing all normal work and recreation, his progress at school, after he had learned to read Braille, was as rapid as that of his fellows. He graduated at the Sorbonne, and now at the second attempt has won a fellowship. In order to help him in his studies his mother and sister copied in Braille all the books which he needed, and he wrote his own papers on a typewriter.

CARDIFF BLIND RECREATION

L AST month saw the inauguration of the Cardiff Blind Recreation Club, which has been established at the Oddfellows' Hall, Charles Street, mainly through the efforts of Mr. H. C. Bement, well known throughout the city as the blind member of the Board of Guardians. For the present the club will be open on Monday evenings only, whilst a musical evening will be arranged once a month. Numerous games are available for the use of members, who already number 31. It is hoped that it may shortly be found possible to secure club premises, where members may meet daily. The Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Mr. F. H. Turnbull), who opened the club, assured the members of his practical sympathy and co-operation. Mr. P. H. Coward and Captain Dark addressed the members, and Mr. Bement—the club's first president-challenged sighted guests to a game of chess or whist with blind members of the club. The Lord Mayor accepted the challenge to a game of whist, and a pleasant evening was spent by blind and sighted alike. The Lord Mayor and Alderman James Taylor have been elected patrons of the club.

RECITALS BY BLIND ORGANISTS

A series of recitals by blind organists will be given on Monday afternoons during October at St. Dunstan's-in-the-West. The organists will be as follows:—

- Oct. 2.—Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus.B., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.
 - ,, 9.—Mr. Sinclair Logan, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.
 - ,, 16.—Mr. Thomas P. Dean, F.R.C.O. (Turpin Prize).
 - ,, 23.—The Rev. H. C. Lewis, M.A., F. R. C. O. (Chaplain, National Institute for the Blind).
 - ,, 30.—Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O. (Organist and Musical Director, National Institute for the Blind).

A BLIND M.P.

THE Vice-President of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind has kindly supplied us with some particulars concerning the career of Mr. W. G. Raymond, who was elected a member of the Federal House of Commons in the General Election of December 1921. A sketch of his life appeared in the *Braille Courier*, and it is from this sketch that the following is taken:

William Gawtress Raymond was born in London in the year 1855. From childhood he evinced a love for the sea and followed a course of training, looking to service in the Royal Navy. His early education was secured at the Royal Naval School and the Royal Naval Academy at Southsea, from which he passed by competitive examination into Her Majesty's service in 1868, with rank of midshipman. For the next five years he served with credit, but by a mysterious stroke of fate, young Raymond's sight failed him while on a voyage to the Cape of Good Hope in 1873. His misfortune was rendered still greater by the fact that on his arrival at the Cape he found his commission as Lieutenant awaiting him.

This sudden crushing of a promising career in a profession which he loved might reasonably have been expected to reduce the young man to a state of paralysing despair. Raymond was, however, made of different stuff. In the very year his sight failed him, he emigrated to Canada, where he entered, as a pupil, the Ontario School for the Blind at Brantford, opened a year previously. He remained at the School till 1877, taking up basket-making and piano-tuning as his business course. In the latter year, he entered upon business for himself, while Brantford began its history as an incorporated city.

From that time down to the present day, Mr. Raymond has identified himself in the closest manner with municipal affairs. He has been Alderman and Mayor of Brantford, President of the Board of Trade, President of the 50,000 Club (an organisation for promoting civic welfare and development) and a member and officer of many other municipal bodies. In addition to these activities, he

has been connected with Provincial and Federal politics, allying himself with the Liberal Party in this regard. He was President of the Brantford Liberal Club and was always a prominent speaker during any election campaign in his riding, and was frequently called upon to speak in other parts of the Province. He was also President of the Farringdon Debating Club, from which issued such well-known figures as the Hon. A. S. Hardy, the Hon. Wm. Patterson, E. B. Wood, and others.

He was also a speaker at the Convention of the National Conference on Character Education in Relation to Canadian Citizenship, held in Winnipeg, October, 1919. The particular subject upon which Mr. Raymond spoke on that occasion was "The School and Demo-cracy." Mr. Raymond's interests were imperial as well as local, and for several years he was President of the Brantford Branch of the Navy League. During the war he was indefatigable in assisting recruiting and spoke on many platforms throughout Ontario. For thirteen years he kept in close touch with work for the blind, by acting as tuning instructor at his Alma Mater. Many of the most successful blind tuners in Canada passed through Mr. Raymond's hands. In 1899 he resigned the Mayoralty of Brantford to become Postmaster, which position he held till October, 1921.

Already the Canadian Press is speaking in the highest terms of Mr. Raymond's oratory. And the blind of the country will have the satisfaction of pointing to him as one of the truly great men, and of saying: "Raymond has acquired his training and his knowledge while labouring under the same handicap as ourselves. He is one of us, and though we cannot all do as he is doing, yet his example proves to us that physical blindness is in itself no inevitable bar to at least relative success." Mr. Raymond is the second blind person to be elected to represent a constituency in Canada within recent years, the first being Mr. Harris Turner, a blinded soldier of Saskatoon, who is now one of the most prominent political figures in the Province of Saskatchewan.

OBITUARY

B Y the death of Mr. William Rawson Carter, J.P., at the age of 85 years, Sheffield has lost one of its oldest and most prominent citizens. A member of the City Council, Mr. Carter was especially active as Chairman of the Health Committee, whilst his successful efforts to preserve the Botanical Gardens from encroachment for building purposes were greatly applauded. In 1897 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace. For over half a century Mr. Carter devoted himself whole-heartedly to the work of the Sheffield Royal Institution for the Blind, occupying the positions of Chairman and Hon. Secretary. In 1914 he was obliged to relinquish some of his duties, but he retained his seat on the Committee until his death, and, in spite of his advanced age, can be said to have "died in harness." 00

SCHOOLS FOR DEFECTIVE CHILDREN

DURING the year ended March 31, 1921, there was a net increase of 26 in the number of special schools certified under the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, or under the Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Acts, 1899 to 1914, in England, and of three in Wales. The total number of special schools in existence during the period was 494 in England and 13 in Wales and Monmouth, with accommodation for 37,776 and 550 respectively. Classified, they provide together accommodation for 3,466 blind, 4,599 deaf, 16,328 mentally defective, 13,425 physically defective, and 508 epileptic children.—Education. 90 90

FOCH AND THE BLIND MAN

HEARING the doorkeeper of a French war cripples' institute refuse to lead a blinded man to the place where he wished to go, an elderly man in civilian clothes offered his services.

Afterwards, according to the *Cri de Paris*, he asked the doorkeeper why he did

not help the man.

"I had not time," was the gruff reply.
"If I can find time, you should be able
to," answered the civilian, "I am Marshal
Foch."

ESPERANTO AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

I N view of the consideration of a Report by the General Secretariat of the League of Nations on "Esperanto as an International Auxiliary Language," which was submitted to the Assembly of the League at Geneva last month, a Memorial in support of Esperanto, signed by over 2,000 leading citizens of Great Britain, was forwarded to the League. The Memorial lays stress on the need for a recognised international language for the purposes of intellectual and commercial intercourse between the peoples of the world. It sets forth the merits of Esperanto, and states that this language has been submitted to exhaustive tests and has proved itself sufficient for all the purposes for which a language is required, also that the experience obtained by teaching Esperanto in schools has demonstrated its value as an educational subiect. The memorialists ask that steps may be taken to have the language employed, as far as may be possible, in international documents, to develop its use in business, and to have it taught to children in all schools throughout the world.



In connection with the above it should be mentioned that there are a number of blind Esperantists, for whom the Braille magazine, *Esperanta Ligilo*, forms, as its name implies, a link for the blind. This magazine is edited by Mr. Harald Thilander, of Stockholm, and at the end of last year enjoyed a circulation of over 600 copies per month in 28 different countries. The magazine is aided by a grant from the National Institute for the Blind, which last year amounted to £78.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE MASSAGE LIBRARY (N.I.B.)

Some Common Disabilities of the Foot in General Practice, by G. Percival Mills, F.R.C.S. (pocket edition).

Radium Therapy, by Robert Knox, M.D. (pocket edition).

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE Society for the BLIND.—This Society reports that during the year ended March 31st, 1922, sales to the value of £1,407 were effected. Wages and augmentation wages paid to blind workers amounted to £1,202. A grant of £400 was allocated to this Society by the National Institute for the Blind.

ORWICH INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

—A favourable year's work is reported from this Institution, in spite of the fact that general trade depression has effected a decrease of over £700 in the sales for the year under review. The amount realised from Sales was £1,795. The sum of £483 was paid to teachers, £588 to journeymen, and £294 augmentation wages. A grant of £400 was made to this Institution by the National Institute for the Blind.

Western Counties Association for THE BLIND.—This Association is concerned with the general welfare of the blind in the countries of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucester, Somerset and Wilts. There are at present 4,160 blind persons registered in this area. 185 persons are either receiving education at Special Elementary Schools for the Blind, or are in training for a trade. The number of blind journeymen and women in training at the workshops in Bristol, Cheltenham, Exeter and Plymouth is 198. The Home Workers' and Home Teachers' services have been well maintained, with the help of three supervisors for the six counties. The total number of registered Home Workers is 153. Grants from the Ministry of Health amounted to £798 10s. A grant of £60 was received from Gardner's Trust for the Blind.

R ASTERN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.—A total of 2,211 registered blind is recorded in the area covered by this Association. Thirteen Home Teachers and 58 Home Workers are attached to the several societies in this area and to the Nottingham Institution. During the year the boundaries of the societies in various districts were adjusted in accordance with the administrative areas of the County Councils and County Boroughs, with which they are working in conjunction. The amount of Government grant payable for the current financial year was £449. A grant of £60 was received from Gardner's Trust.

LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—The annual report contains a particularly interesting and well-told account of various typical cases assisted by this Institution. In the workshops there are 23 pupils, of whom 11 were admitted during the year. Grants for their maintenance amounted to £900. Sales to the value of £16,522 were effected. The sum expended in wages (manufacturing) amounted to £2,764, whilst £1,819 was paid to blind workers in excess of earnings. Salaries and wages of staff amounted to £1,109. Legacies to the total value of £1,330 were received during the period under review.

AT St. Nicholas' Flower Show, recently held in Brighton, Miss R. King and Miss A. Holtham, inmates of the National Institute's Home for Blind Women, Brighton, have secured first and second prizes respectively for showing the best cabbages from the Home's allotment.

 $\mathrm{B}^{\, ext{olton}}$ Schools and Workshops for Blind.—In common with many others, this Institution reports participation in the effects of prevalent trade depression. Sales to the value of £9,812 were effected—a decrease of £2,517 on those of the preceding year. The sum of £4,562 was expended in salaries and wages, and £2,168 in augmentation wages to blind workers. The Home Teaching Department records a total of 1,500 visits paid in the Bolton Union area. number of blind persons on the register in the Bolton Poor Law Area is 360, of whom 64 are employed at the Institution.

L IVERPOOL WORKSHOPS AND HOME-TEACHING SOCIETY FOR THE OUT-DOOR BLIND.—According to the Annual General Report 175 men and women were employed at the Workshops of this Society on March 31. The amount earned by the blind at trade rates £9,753 9s. 4d., to which was added in augmentation £7,960 3s. 1d. A further sum of £739 3s. 9d. was expended on dinners for the blind, while grants to the holiday, sick and benevolent funds amounted to £296 10s. 3d. Thus a total sum of £18,749 6s. 5d. was received by blind workers. The receipts by sales amounted to £48,084. Although the trading account for the year shows a deficit of £9,190 19s. 3d., it should be noted that the augmentation of wages plus the cost of dinners to blind employees totalled £8,699 6s. 10d. This sum nearly approximates the deficit in question, and we consider this to be an excellent example of the proper expenditure of funds.

An annual grant of £4,500 is made to this Society by the National Institute for the Blind.

With regard to the Home Teaching Branch, during the year nine Home-Teachers visited 815 blind persons. 1,252 lessons in Braille and Moon were given, and the sum of £3,036 was expended in relief.

EEDS INCORPORATED INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND AND THE DEAF AND THE DUMB.-The 46th Annual Report of this Institution is to hand. At the close of the financial year-March 31, 1922-there

were on the register 512 blind persons and 344 deaf-mutes. The number of blind and deaf workers in the Trading Departments was 122. The general trade depression has affected the Workshops, the Sales amounting to £19,609, as against £23,588 in the preceding year. sum of £8,437 was paid in wages, supplementary wages, gratuities, etc., whilst £631 was expended in pensions and relief to blind non-workers, and £367 to deaf non-workers. Legacies to the amount of £130 were received. The sum of £1,391 was received from the National Institute for the Blind, being part proceeds of the Yorkshire Campaign Fund.

By an arrangement made with the National Institute, which has undertaken the collection of fresh subscriptions, this Institution receives the sum of £2,500

per annum.

BLIND LEGISLATORS

I NDER the heading "Blind Legislators," the following interesting little paragraph appeared in a recent issue of the North Eastern Daily Gazette:-The late Lord Sinclair, who would have been 91 next September, had the misfortune to be quite blind, an infirmity with which one or two of his colleagues in the House of Lords have also been afflicted from time to time. The late Lord Midleton, I remember, the father of the present peer, suffered from the same disability, and whenever he attended the sittings of the Chamber was escorted to his seat on the arm of his son or one of the attendants. A peer who is partially disabled in the same way is Lord Sanderson, who as Sir Thomas Sanderson was for long years the permanent head of the Foreign Office. The present Lord Merthyr is also blind, and on a recent occasion when he attended the sittings of the Upper House was specially permitted to vote from his seat instead of passing through the lobbies. In the Commons also there was, of course, the case of Professor Fawcett, the blind Postmaster-General.

"Poetry lifts the veil from the hidden beauty of the world, and makes familiar objects be as if they were not familiar."

-Shelley.

THE LABOUR PARTY MEMORANDUM

By BEN PURSE



NDER the joint auspices of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, the Executive Committee of the Labour Party, and the Parliamentary Labour Party, a memorandum has just been issued in respect of the Blind Persons Act, 1920.

When one learns that a Research Committee has been engaged upon an investigation of

problems associated with the care of the Blind it is natural to expect that in the recommendations such a Committee would necessarily be called upon to make, some far-reaching and constructive proposals would be likely to result. Unfortunately, however, one looks in vain for any original suggestion or statesmanlike proposition in the document before us: the only redeeming feature one can find is that the pamphlet is presented in such a form as to render the statistics easy of access. But the figures given have all been well-known for a considerable time and been published in Government documents and elsewhere over and over again.

The Reports of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind and documents issued by the Board of Education have been freely used, but no exhaustive research is required in order to table figures that are always public property to those who are sufficiently studious and desire to keep themselves properly informed.

We find many points of agreement in the memorandum, but the flimsy evidence which is given in support of the criticism of the Ministry of Health is hardly such as will convince any but those who have a strong party bias, and merely to adduce one or two isolated instances for the purpose of maintaining a general contention, of course, does not prove anything. If we look at the expenditure on the general services that are being rendered to the blind we shall find that they are rapidly increasing, and it is the business—essentially the business of the Ministry—to see that proper value is secured for the money that is being so expended. There is a tendency evinced in this memorandum to confuse estimates with actual expenditure, and the document is wholly misleading from that point of view.

The State grants paid to Voluntary Organisations during the year ending March 31st, 1922, amounted to the sum of £69,886. That this money has almost entirely gone to the blind workers is shown conclusively by the wage standards that are obtaining and the more efficient services that are being secured, but it must not be assumed that the items given in the memorandum represent the only State expenditure on services for the Blind. This document appears to overlook the fact that under Section I. of the Act pensions are conferred upon blind persons over fifty years of age under precisely the same conditions as those governing the Administration of the Old Age Pension Acts, and there is an additional £230,000 per annum being expended upon this service. Indeed, this is an ever-growing form of expenditure and is rising more rapidly than is assumed in some quarters.

Thus, under the Act, already the State is spending nearly £300,000 per annum more than was the case prior to 1920, so that it is the height of absurdity to contend that the Act is not being properly administered nor yielding substantial results.

Every essential service which is being rendered to the Blind Community has been drastically improved in consequence of the operation of the Act of 1920, and although no one even outside the Labour Party claims that the Act is a perfect statute, those of us who are carefully watching its administration can abundantly testify to its immense sphere of usefulness.

It is petty in the extreme for the compilers of such a document to refer to the Inspectorate in the terms that are employed. These men have an enormously difficult task to perform. Their knowledge and experience are such that they are in the very nature of things called upon to advise as to the appropriate machinery that is requisite for given areas. Their sole desire is to obtain such results as will prove to be advantageous to the Blind Community, and therefore they must frequently advise that it is unwise to discard the knowledge and experience of the Voluntary Associations and to begin de novo with a few scrappy ideas that have so frequently emanated from persons who have neither business capacity nor knowledge of the problem. Very rightly the Inspectors refuse to be cajoled by a few people who are prepared to run unlimited risks with money subscribed by the general public, and who appear to imagine that the resources of the taxpayer are absolutely inexhaustible. These risks would not be dreamed of if they involved the expenditure of their own personal resources.

It seems to be assumed that very grave negligence is permitted by reason of the fact that only about 7,889 blind persons are employed, but every student of the problem knows full well that it is extremely unwise to hazard opinions based upon such slender evidence as is available. It must not be forgotten that a very large proportion of the Blind are rendered incapable of work owing to a variety of causes, and we are quite safe when we say that less than 50 per cent., even under the best conditions that could be devised, would be found to be employable. That more can be done is certain, and the Government Department mainly cerned with this aspect of the problem is doing much to enforce such a point of view, but if it is assumed that any considerable proportion of the Blind Community can be rendered economically

independent by engaging in industrial avocations the assumption is wholly unwarranted by the facts.

If we take the age incidence into consideration, together with the number of physically and mentally defective persons, it will be at once clearly seen that we cannot hope to absorb the Blind Community by industrial organisation. Even on the showing of the memorandum we find that over 16 years of age the number of unemployed persons is set down at 831, which is only a fraction over 9 per cent. of the employed. We very much doubt if during times of normal trade, there is any community of severely handicapped people which shows a more satisfactory state of things.

The number of defective persons is set down at 6,128; persons who are described as having "received no training" 4,085; those stated to be unemployable number 14,518.

We know sufficient of the gravamen of the problem to realise that neglect in earlier years may have contributed to the numbers of those who are classified as "unemployable," but generally speaking there are definitely ascertained reasons for so large a percentage of persons who could never hope, by reason of additional physical and mental infirmities, to enter the wage-earning arena.

The document before us talks very gliby about penalising those Local Authorities who have not presented schemes under which the Act must be operated, and we are told that about 40 of such recalcitrant Local Authorities Here again the memorandum is seriously out of date, for the number of Local Authorities that have so far failed is now less than 20. It is nonsensical, however, to talk about penalising the Municipalities for declining to put the Act into operation. The Managers of the Labour Party know well enough that to talk in this way is simply to throw dust in the eyes of the public. They have had enough experience under the Housing Acts to teach them the impropriety of this form of coercion. Unless a municipality can be educated to recognise its responsibilities all the pressure you can bring to bear will be of little avail. If force is employed it will carry with it such resentment as will inevitably lead to a halfhearted compliance, and will destroy the fundamental objects either of this Act or any other. They need to be educated, and this the Ministry of Health is doing in the most constructive and useful manner that commonsense and intelligence can devise.

As a matter of fact there are 18 local authorities whose schemes have not yet been presented, but it is interesting to note that 76 of such schemes have been approved, and that the average cost is £580 per annum. Thus it will be seen that the figures already given have to be supplemented by a further £44,000 which

is annually being expended.

Finally, may we be permitted to make an observation or two on the vexed question of the employment of Home Visitors. It seems to be assumed that under all circumstances and conditions it is the right and proper thing to employ blind or partially blind men and women for this We think we know something about the recommendations made by the Inter-Departmental Committee in respect of this phase of the subject, and it was never unreservedly advocated that under all circumstances blind persons should be so engaged. It is a definite sphere of usefulness and one which can be filled in some measure by competent blind or partially blind persons, but there are limits even to what can be achieved in this direction. The work of a Home Teacher has changed and is vastly changing in accordance with modern and reasonable requirements, and there are conditions conceivable where it is absolutely necessary that sighted assistance should be available.

Some people imagine that there are no limitations to blindness, or at least they talk in that vein, and yet in the very next breath they claim preferential treatment because of the disabilities which loss of sight entails. There is a hopeless lack of consistency in certain quarters, and however unpleasant the task may be it is necessary that wholesome and salutary thinking should be borne in upon them.

It must be remembered that in the present financial state of the Voluntary

Organisations oftentimes the employment of a totally blind person means that the Society must be mulcted into additional expenditure for the provision of a guide and double travelling expenses. This is a two-fold expenditure for a single service, and it is questionable whether on economic grounds this form of administration can be wholly and justifiably maintained or defended.

If one looks at the number of Home Visitors that have been appointed during the past two years there is no cause whatever for alarm, for we are mindful of the fact that wherever it has been possible, having reasonable considerations in mind, to appoint a blind or partially blind person such posts have always been given. We want to see as many blind people employed as is possible but there is no use endeavouring to "fit a round peg into a square hole" merely in order that certain parties may be convenienced by the process.

Other very pertinent and forceful criticism of this memorandum could be made, but sufficient will have been said here to show that the compilers of this document do not possess a monopoly of all knowledge and information that must be assimilated before such a problem can

be solved.

The pamphlet before us implies that the Act of 1920 was passed because voluntaryism had failed. This is not wholly in accordance with the facts. It would be fairer and more truthful to say that the Act received legislative sanction, not because voluntaryism had failed, but because it was insufficient in volume and uneven in its incidence.

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,

Than are dreamt of in your philosophy."



In the 1923 syllabus of the Local Centre Examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, Mr. Sinclair Logan's song, "Early One Morning," published in the National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers, has been selected as one of two alternative test pieces for candidates for the Advanced Grade—Bass Voice.

SOME BLIND ORGANISTS

query was recently raised in the A Westminster Gazette as to who was the first blind church organist. Mention was made of Mr. Creasor, who was organist of the Lindfield Parish Church sixty years ago. A correspondent thereupon supplied some interesting information concerning one Caspar Crumbhorn, who flourished in the sixteenth century, Crumbhorn performed so exquisitely upon the flute and violin that he was favoured by Augustus, Elector of Saxony, and lived for some time in that electorate. Returning to his native Silesia, he became organist of St. Peter and St. Paul, and director of the musical college in the town of Liegnitz. He died on June 11th, 1621.

The same correspondent also mentions Joseph Strong, the blind mechanic and musician, who was born at Carlisle in 1732. It is told of him that on one occasion he concealed himself in the Cathedral, and at midnight tried the tone of the different organ stops, much to the alarm of the good burghers of Carlisle. Strong was reprimanded by the Dean "for his untimely curiosity," but was subsequently accorded permission to play whenever he wished to do so. Later he became an organ-builder, and also invented a weaver's loom. James Wilson, in his Biography of the Blind, tells us that "at the age of twenty he could himself make almost every article of wearing apparel and household furniture. . . . first pair of shoes he made was for the purpose of walking from Carlisle to London, to visit Mr. Stanley, the celebrated blind organist of the Temple Church. This visit he actually paid, and was highly gratified with the journey." He died at Carlisle in March, 1798, in his sixty-sixth year.

We now come to the said John Stanley, who, as Wilson tells us, "was a prodigy in his day; as a composer few could equal him, and as a performer he had, perhaps, no superior. Such was the opinion of two most distinguished foreigners, at that time in England, Handel and Gazzini, men whose profound knowledge of the art qualified them to judge of the merits of Mr. Stanley's performances." John Stanley was born in 1713, and lost his sight when he was two years old by falling on a marble hearth whilst

holding a china basin. At the age of seven he first began to learn music, and his progress was from the first extremely rapid. At the age of eleven he was made organist of All Hallows, Bread Street; at thirteen years of age he was chosen to be the organist of St. Andrew's, Holborn.

A pupil of the famous John Reading, organist of Winchester Cathedral and College, and of Dr. Maurice Green, of St. Paul's Cathedral, he was the youngest graduate in Music of Oxford University, taking his Bachelor of Music degree at the age of sixteen. For a short period of time he was organist of St. Martin's-inthe Fields, while in 1734 the Benchers of the Inner Temple elected him to be one of their organists, which post he retained until the end of his life. In 1760 Stanley joined Mr. J. C. Smith in carrying on the oratorio performances formerly conducted by Handel during Lent at Covent Garden. During the interval the blind organist played a concerto at every performance and accompanied throughout. He accompanied many of the principal theatrical and orchestral performances in the metropolis, and was the composer of various musical works, including two oratorios and a dramatic pastoral on the occasion of the marriage of George III. Stanley was an able violinist, and the possessor. of two famous violins, a Stanier and a Cremona, which were both burned in a fire at the Swan Tavern, Cornhill.

It is of interest to hear that he was a great whist-player. He played with cards "which were marked at the corner with the point of a needle, but the marks were so delicately fine as scarcely to be seen by any person. His hand was the first arranged, and he frequently complained of a dilatory partner not being ready!"

THE BLIND BOY

By Colley Cibber Set to Music by John Stanley

O SAY, what is that thing called Light
Which I can ne'er enjoy,
What is the blessing of the Sight,
O tell your poor blind boy.

You talk of wondrous things you see, You say the sun shines bright; I feel him warm, but how can he Then make it Day or Night? My Day or Night myself I make, Whene'er I wake or play, And could I ever keep awake, It would be always Day.

With heavy sighs I often hear You mourn my hopeless woe, But, sure, with patience I can bear A loss I ne'er can know.

Then let not what I cannot have My cheer of mind destroy, Whilst thus I sing I am a king, Altho' a poor blind boy.

A RECITAL OF WORKS OF BLIND COMPOSERS

O^N Thursday evening, October 12th, in the great Wesleyan Central Hall, Westminster, a recital, quite unique in London, will be given. It is to be devoted to the works of eminent blind composers, particularly those whose works have had the honour of being selected for inclusion in the "National Institute Edition of the Works of British Blind Composers," and, as far as possible, these works are to be rendered by their actual composers. The composer-recitalists include the names of Mr. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., H. V. Spanner, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., Mr. Sinclair Logan, A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., Mr. H. G. Newell, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., while Mr. Ernest Whitfield, just returned from his triumphant Recital Tour in Vienna, Berlin and Florence, will play a violin sonata by Wolstenholme, and Mr. F. H. Etcheverria will sing a number of songs. The programme includes organ, piano, violin and vocal items of great variety and high artistic merit. The organ in the Central Hall is one of the best known recital instruments in the metropolis, and the hall seats 2,800. Tickets may be had from the National Institute and at any of Messrs. Keith, Prowse's branches until the day before the Concert, and at the Central Hall up to the time of the Concert. Tickets are reserved and numbered 5s. 9d., 3s. 6d., 2s. 4d., and unreserved 1s. 3d. Posters and other announcements are published and it is earnestly hoped that all friends of the Blind will rally and fill this immense hall, and so give an impetus to the cause in the Metropolis which will be felt all over the Kingdom. This concert is one of a scries of great propaganda concerts organised by the National Institute for the Blind, and will be immediately followed by another (on October 25th) at the Birmingham Central Hall. Readers are asked to tell their friends and so spread the news, as the time is now very near at hand. Please make early application for tickets as a rush is expected.

→ → MAGIC MACHINES

THE following article was recently contributed to the *Daily News* by Mr. Rex Furness, a blinded soldier:—

There are many wonderful machines and instruments in the world to-day, the value of which is little understood or appreciated by the general reader. The marvels of wireless telegraphy and telephony are well understood because of their applicability. There is scarcely a City man who does not know of the wonders of the calculating machine, whilst the many devices for saving mental work in office routine are shown him every day.

For the efficient carrying on of industry and the reduction of working costs to the utmost limit, however, numerous valuable instruments of control are available. A new instrument, the Katharometer, has just been displayed, although it was used during the war, when it passed unnoticed, since it did not possess the romantic attraction of a machine for tracking submarines or locating Zeppelins. The machine will detect and write down on paper the analysis of mixed gases—invisible, non-odourless and tasteless, and incapable of perception by any of the senses.

Thus, in an airship balloon, it is important not to have air mixed with the hydrogen in anything except minute quantities. The Katharometer detects the small amounts of air permeating the gas envelope, and can be set to ring a warning bell if required. The working of the instrument depends upon the difference in the capacity for heat of different gases, and the corresponding influence upon an electric circuit.

Many other instruments of complicated structure and of wonderful ingenuity are available to help run industry at 100 per cent. efficiency. There are the devices for recording all through the night the heat of a furnace, or the pressure within any piece of apparatus. Miniature weirs set in a water stream will calculate the amount of water flowing to a process, and can be made to record the results on paper. Automatic weighing and measuring devices will keep check over consumption and production every minute of the day. X-rays are being used in industry to test the absence of flaws in metal structures and foundry output, resulting in an immense saving of time and labour.

Comparing small things with great, it may be noted that the writer developed an instrument which served as a kind of watchdog device for blind poultry farmers. The blind poultry farmer can do everything for himself except read his thermometer to find the temperature of his incubator. By a simple device one bell is rung if the incubator temperature tends to go high, and another bell sounds if the incubator tends to grow too cool. The bells can be fixed indoors and connected electrically with the incubator temperature instrument, some distance away on the farm.

OPHTHALMIC QUACKERY

I N his presidential address at the open-ing of a recent session of the Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Society, Mr. Cyril Walker made some interesting marks on this subject, which appeared substantially in the Bristol Medico-Chirurgical Journal. For centuries those afflicted with eye disease have been peculiarly liable to fall into the hands of quacks. In England in the Middle Ages, as in India to-day, couching for cataract was commonly carried out by itinerant quacks. The immediate result was often strikingly good, but ultimately the last state of the eye was almost always worse than the first. In the eighteenth century, the "Chevalier" Taylor, a qualified surgeon and oculist to many kings, practised as an itinerant quack on a large

scale; he travelled about from town to town in great state and invited the gentry to witness his cures. In recent times quack sellers of eye-drops have continued to do a flourishing trade. It is not quite easy, says Mr. Walker, to define quackery, for it includes dishonest practice by qualified men, no less than a pretension to skill which they do not possess on the part of the unqualified. Indeed, qualification is no guarantee of skill unless we know the nature of the qualification. The best definition of quackery would appear to be dishonesty in practice, a definition which might apply to qualified men, who in their dealing with patients, put the interests of their own pockets before those of their patients; and also to those who, whether qualified or not, undertake tasks for which they know they have not the requisite training or skill. As Mr. Walker remarks, a good deal of quackery, both in England and America, is associated with the prescribing of spectacles by opticians. Glaring instances in which purchasers have been fleeced often come to the notice of ophthalmic surgeons, who are consequently called upon to revise the optician's prescription. And yet, as Mr. Walker says, most opticians are competent and honest, and on the whole the public have benefited by the improved knowledge of those of them who have passed the examinations set by the Spectacle Makers' Co. and other bodies. Whether or not these examinations ought to include sight-testing is a moot point on which the opticians, represented by their journal, The Optician, take up a definite position, and the bulk of ophthalmic surgeons another, diametrically opposed to it. A Committee of the Council of British Ophthalmologists is considering the subject, and we await its report with interest. Meantime, there are two points on which the public should be informed. One is that the optician cannot be so well equipped for the prescription of glasses in children and in difficult cases of adults as the ophthalmic surgeon, as the former is precluded from the use of mydriatics. Secondly, a certain proportion of those with defective sight owe their disabilities to disease, either of the eye or the general system, and with these the optician is necessarily incapable of dealing. -- Lancet.





INERS' nystagmus, called popularly "miners' blind-ness," has been the curse of the coal-mining industry for a century. Its distribution is very wide. Some time ago, Dr. Lister Llewellyn propounded the view, based on great experience, that the lighting of the pits was responsible, and pointed out that in open work-

ings no such trouble arose.

As a consequence of his work, the Medical Research Council appointed a special committee to report on the matter. This body consisted of Professor Haldane, of Oxford, chairman, Professor Collis, Dr. Llewellyn, Mr. Pooley, F.R.C.S., and Dr. Rivers. It recently published a first statement of its findings. These are unanimous, and are as follows:—

- t. The essential factor in the production of miners' nystagmus is deficient illumination. Other factors, such as position during work, accidents, alcoholism, infections, malnutrition, hereditary predisposition, and errors of refraction, are of secondary importance only, while depths of workings, thickness of seams, and the ordinary gaseous impurities in mine air have no direct influence on the disease.
- 2. The deficient illumination is due to the low illuminating power of the safety lamps generally used by coal-miners, to the distance at which these lamps have to be placed from the objects which the miner has to look at, and to the great absorption of light by the coal and the coal-dust covered surfaces. In addition, the effect of coal-dust or dirt in obscuring the lamp glasses, the choking of the wire gauze chimneys, and the presence of moisture or low oxygen percentage in mine air, all reduce the light given by

- oil lamps, while failing voltage, poor bulbs, or lack of proper attention have similar effects on the illumination given by electric lamps.
- 3. Workers at the coal face are more affected than other underground workers, and this appears to be due to the unrelieved blackness of the coal and the greater need for accurate vision.
- 4. Distinct signs of nystagmus are present in a large proportion of coalminers, though only in a small proportion do the symptoms ever become so severe as to cause even temporary incapacity for work underground.

The committee recommend that, since incapacity due to nystagmus is rare among coal-miners working with open lights, everything possible should be done to make the standard of illumination of the objects looked at by the miner equal to that of an open-light pit. This can be effected at the coal face and elsewhere either by greatly increasing (to about two or three candles) the illuminating power of safety lamps as ordinarily used, or by the use of an electric light capable of being fixed on a miner's head, belt, or other convenient position, so that the light is automatically brought nearer the working area and does not impair clear vision by shining directly into the eyes. At parts of the pit other than the coal face the visibility of objects can be greatly increased by whitewashing, as well as by the stone dusting now obligatory for the prevention of explosions. The committee believe that by the application of these remedies, miners' nystagmus of sufficient severity to cause disablement can, by degrees, be entirely prevented.

During their investigations, the committee have noticed the prevailing belief among coal-miners that miners' nystagmus causes permanent damage to, or even total loss of, sight, if underground work is continued after the onset of symptoms. This belief, which is entirely erroneous, has led to much unnecessary suffering, and to the development of psycho-neurotic symptoms in many cases.



In connection with the above we learn from the *Times* that for two years the Miners' Lamp Committee have been experimenting on electric safety lamps made without the usual four or five brass pillars surrounding the glass; their work has now reached a stage at which they feel justified in recommending that such lamps should be accepted for test with a view to their approval for use in mines. This recommendation has been accepted by the Secretary for Mines.

The object of the pillarless lamp is to avoid not only the loss of light caused by the pillars but also the alternate zones of light and darkness produced by them, these zones irritating the eye and possibly aggravating miners' nystagmus, or even contributing to its causation.

One objection urged against this construction, that the glass, being left without protection, would get broken more frequently, has been disproved by experiments carried out at several collieries over a period of eighteen months. A second objection, that the eyes of the miner carrying such a lamp would require protection from the light thrown upwards, has been met by attaching a movable reflector to the handle of the lamp.

HOOLE BANK, CHESTER

There are at present Vacancies for a few **Elderly Blind Gentlemen** at this Guest-House. Applications should be made to the SEKERTARY-GENERAL, National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1 (Registered under the Blind Persons Act, 1920).

CLOTHING FOR THE BLIND

Wearing Apparel, Boots, Shoes, etc., are urgently needed for the Necessitous Blind. Please help us with all such articles which you can spare. Gifts will be gratefully acknowledged by The Superintendent of the After-Care Department, National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1. (Registered under the Blind Persons Act, 1920).

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

September, 1922

(continued from page ii of cover)

GRADE III.

Macnaughtan, S. Snow upon the Desert 3 vols.
Wiggin, K. Douglas Penelope's Irish Experiences 3 vols.

GRADE I.

Conrad, J. Lord Jim 8 vols.



THE AFTER-CARE DEPARTMENT of the National Institute for the Blind report that during the month of August 40 fresh cases came under their care (30 men and 10 women.) Gifts to the number of 26 were provided at a cost of £70 17s. 6d. The number of visits paid was 56. The amount expended in training fees was £163 12s. 9d., in relief £147 13s., and in relief administered by Branches £49 16s. Other grants and payments amounted to the sum of £708 3s. 9d.



THE CHRONICLE informs us that, though born blind, John Westwater, of North Shields, developed the sense of location to such an extent that he has spent forty years acting as "knocker-up" to miners and fishermen who have to be awakened during the night to go to work. He travels many miles each night on his rounds.



AN ALEPPO message to the *Chronicle* recently stated that 100 blind Armenian orphans, aged from 7 to 15, from the Near East Relief Mission School for the Blind at Kharput, have arrived after a 500 miles trainp across the interior of Turkey.

The region they traversed was mostly desert, necessitating the transport of water and provisions on camels.

CITY OF NORWICH

Committee for Welfare of Blind Persons

Wanted a Female HOME TEACHER (sighted), under the Blind Persons Act. Must possess knowledge of Braille and Moon Type; also some technical knowledge. Salary £180 per annum for whole time service Applications endorsed "Home Teacher," stating age, qualifications and experience, accompanied by copies of testimonials, to be delivered to the undersigned on or before October 14th.

Guildhall, Norwich, ARNOLD H. MILLER,

15th September, 1922. Town Clerk.

BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the September Numbers

Progress.—Ballads—Indian Wild Life—I have a Ship of Thoughts (Poem)—The Wireless Telephone and its Construction—The Most Famous People in History—Garden Notes (September)—National Library for the Blind—Our Prize Competitions—Matters of the Moment—Correspondence—The Question-Box—Our Home Page—Chess. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum).

The Literary Journal.—Northcliffe and Napoleon— Lord Castlereagh—The Humour of the Babu—Old Bill for Merrie England—The Preparatory School— National Library for the Blind—The Prince's Shoot in Nepal—Huntingtower. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum.

School Magazine.—Basket-Making Examination—
The Story of Famous Books (II) "Pendennis," by William Makepeace Thackeray (concluded)—The Tigger ("My Magazine")—A Fourteenth-Century Day at Westminster (from "Westminster," by Sir Walter Besant)—Biography in Brief: Tintoretto (1518–1594)—Chaining up a Mad River ("My Magazine")—An Oriental Bazaar ("Christian Science Monitor"—Queries—A Cradle Song, hy Padrate Colum—Holland and her People ("My Magazine")—The Pioneers of Wireless ("Children's Newspaper")—How Animals Keep Clean, by C. Beck (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d. per annun).

Comrades.—Diggers and Delvers, hy H. Waddingham Seers—The Greedy Mouse ("My Magazine")— The Flute-Player, by Ada M. Marzials—The Stile (Grade I)—Puzzles—A Tree-Toad Loved a She-Toad ("Matilda Ziegler Magazine")— The Dog that Remembered Odysseus ("Children's Encyclopædia")—Riddles. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum).

Musical Magazino.—Our Tuners' Column—Review: "Choir-Training"—Interpretation in the Choral Class—Archhishops' Committee on Church Music— Charles Dickens' Connection with the R. A. M.— Fifty Years of Musical Life—A Good Offer— Supplement: Braille Music Reviews—Inset: Organ, No. 2 "de Trois Chorals," by C. Franck. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 7s. 6d. per annum).

Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs, as well as a Sporting Page. Subscription rates:—Inland, 2d. per copy (3d. post free), 8s. per year (inland and abroad).

Massage Journal, being the official organ of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs.—
Official Notices—Additions to Massage Library—
News in the Massage World—The Rheumatic Group of Diseases, by G. L. Kerr Pringle, M.C., M.D. (Amual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum).

Channels of Blessing.—Books for Sale and Other Notices—Obedience—'The Helper of our Unbelief— Our Letter from India—Why Mary Slessor was Brave—Burden-Bearers—Lovely, Loving Jesus— How to Read the Bible—'Thou Knowest, Lord'.'— Gleanings—Prayer Union—The Norris Memorial— With Christ in the School of Prayer.

The Hampstead Magazine.—The Girlin the Strange House, by Max Pemberton—Shining Lure, by Donovan Bayley—Best Stories—Thrilling Battles with Angry Waves. (ls. 8d. per copy, post free).

The Light-Bringer. — From the Braille Room: About the Magazine—Mohammed and Buddha—Psycho-Analysis—The Path of Initiation—A Study in Consciousness, chapter 5—Elementary Theosophy: (7) Deeds and their Consequences—Some Artistic Labours of the Lord of the Cultural System, by Weller Van Hook—The Deaf-Blind, by One Only Blind—Reincarnation: A Choice, by G. L. Shaw—The Passing of the Baha, hy Dr. J. E. Esslemont—Letters from Galilec, 1 and II—The Smoothing of the Hand, by Frona Macleod—Earth—The Shepherd's Sabbath Song.

Santa Lueia.—Wonderful Machinery of the Weather
—Money Upside Down—The Great Impersonation,
chapters 20-21 (to be continued), by E. Phillips
Oppenheim — Important Little Nobody — First
"British" Tortoise—Sick Man Cured by Wireless
—The Death of Michael Collins—Filming the Sea
Bed—Bird-Eating Spider's Eggs at the Zoo. (1s. 8d.
per copy, post free).

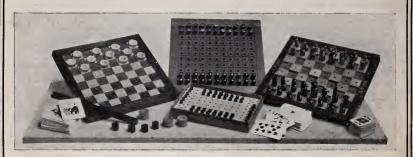
The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. Annual subscription 7s. 6d., ahroad 11s. 6d.

The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type).—Basketmaking Examination—The Mist—Marvels of a Modern Hotel—Mining for Health—The Prince at Work and Play—Hard and Soft Water—Food Makes Faces. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 18s. 6d., post free).

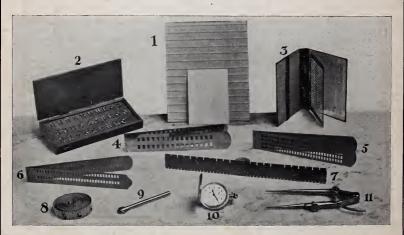
Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world day by day, keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. Subscription, 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



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INTERESTS OF THE BLIND



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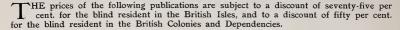
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COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND

Report on Craft Instructors' Course—(concluded)



HE Craft Instructors' Course arranged by the College of Teachers of the Blind, was held at Swiss Cottage from the 23rd to the 26th May. A full account of the first day's proceedings appeared in the August number of the *Beacon*.

On Thursday, 25th May, at 10 a.m., Henry Stainsby, Esq., Hon. Registrar of the College,

took the chair, and called upon J. M. Ritchie, Esq., M.A., to give an address on "Class Management, Discipline, etc."

Mr. Ritchie said :-I have first to thank the Chairman for his very kind references to myself, and to express the hope that we shall not be long enough together this morning for you to discover that his remarks have been flattering rather than true. My leisure has lately been like unto the snakes in Iceland, of which it was written, "There are no snakes in Iceland," but I feel that had it been otherwise it would have been an easier matter to prepare a course of lectures than a single address upon so large a subject. In the time allotted I can only deal with one or two points, the discussion of which would appear to be most useful.

You are a company of practical men, and where such a company is gathered together there, too, is collected a great contempt for Theory. It may be vocal, or it may lie too deep for words, but it is in-

variably there. It may be of use, therefore, to enquire into the sources of this attitude, and to seek just cause for its abandonment. The attitude is due to a misapprehension of the facts of the case. Theory is in the doleful position of always being misunderstood. . To the practical man it is superfluous millinery. It is stuff written in books for the complication of simple issues. The practical man is a believer in Shaw's dictum: "He who can does, he who cannot, teaches," and says to himself-it would sound better in French -" as for me, I do." Now, as already stated, the facts are otherwise. Theory is essential and fundamental. Theory without practice may be useless, but practice without theory is impossible. Your theory may be that you have no theory, but that in itself is a theory, and you are convicted of being, not only a theorist, but a theorist of the worst kind.

Theory is a body of doctrine relating to this or that particular art composed of the crystallised expression of generalised truths. The word is sometimes used in other senses, and this perhaps is responsible for its disrepute with practical men. You know the bore who buttonholes you as you are running for your morning train and expounds what he calls a theory that all politicians are humbugs, or that a wet August occurs every leap year, or any other similar foolishness. These may be hypotheses for the erection of a crazy

philosophy, but when he calls them theories, he is saying the thing that is not.

It has been said that theory is a statement of generalised truth, and it follows that we cannot have a Mrs. Beeton's Recipe Book in Education. teachers wish they could. They want to be told what to do in every circumstance of school life. A book of Tips to Teachers on the model of a Cookery Book would have a ready sale, but to buy it, except for the sheer fun of the thing, would be an act of despair. The man who means to worry through to a successful teacher must learn to apply his principles for himself. It has always been to me something of a mystery that many of the public and many even of the scholastic persuasion should belittle the importance of theory in the art of teaching and the science of education. It is not so in other professions. The average citizen does not think that the five years' medical University course is waste of time. He realises in that case that the use of the rule of thumb has limitations. If he is approached by a welldressed stranger who says, "I don't believe in anatomy or physiology, materia medica is old wives' tales, and anæsthetics are against nature, give me a strong wrist and a good knife and I'll cure your appendicitis," or words to that effect, he would have some hesitation in accepting him as his Æsculapius. In spite of this, there are men who boldly take on the care of young minds, creations more delicate, more ethereal and more easily damaged than that gross affair, the human carcass, without any previous study or training, and many of the average citizens above referred to see nothing indecorous in the step. Yet, when you come to think of it, are not these men over-bold as well as impertinent? To undertake to mould the mind of childhood is a daring thing, and one is well advised to walk humbly lest one incur the condemnation that falls upon him who offends one of these little ones.

Even in less learned professions the necessity of theory is accepted. Take the case of the sailor. He does not respect his captain the less because of the latter's theoretical knowledge of astronomy and navigation. He may be all that a captain

should be—to the lady novelist. He may walk the deck with a firm tread. He may scan the far horizon with an eagle eye. He may play havoc with mutineers with an ever-ready hand-spike, but he will not have the confidence of his crew unless they know that he is captain in the chart-house as well as on the bridge.

These examples are at the same time potent reminders of the fact that practice must accompany theory, that theory must be translated into action before it can be of everyday use. The doctor must be as familiar with the dissecting room as with the professor's lectures, the aspirant to command at sea must know the actual ship as well as his text-books.

I only once met a person who believed that theory without practice would suffice. He was a lad who wished to be a swimmer. He therefore studied the subject assiduously from a shilling hand-book it was in pre-war days-he even glimpsed at hydrostatics and learned that a partly submerged object displaced its own weight Armed with this information of water. and the reassuring statement that bulk for bulk the human body was lighter than the substance of the ocean, he went to the local swimming-bath and, without trepidation, sprang in at the deep end. It was before the days of Coué, and he had to be treated to artificial respiration for twenty minutes.

Practice is the complement of theory. The two must be interfused and united before one can present the delightful spectacle of an art in successful operation.

In the skilled practice of an art, the theory, it is readily admitted, is nowhere visible. It has passed into the unconscious, the automatic region. Take, for instance, such a simple thing as golfsimple, I mean, to those who have never played. At the outset the novice is deluged with theory. He must hold his club with his hands so. He must screw at the waist. He must keep his left heel from turning out. He must take the club back slowly. He must keep his head steady and his eye on the ball. With these and a score more instructions in his mind, he must, if he can, hit it. It is not surprising that instead he oft-times beats the air or appears to be digging a trench with an unsuitable implement. Yet it is the only

way to learn. The various instructions must gradually sink in, and the various movements become mechanical. By painful exemplification of the correct doctrine, by patient recollection of the one maxim he had forgotten, his stance and swing will become orthodox, and the uneasy trammels of self-conscious correctitude will become lost in the pleasure of the game.

Sometimes one hears educational theory decried because it is always changing. "Why should I learn what may be swept away to-morrow by some new fad?" The answer to this query must first point out that no fad can upset the general principles of pedagogy. In any case, let us prepare to face to-morrow's vagary when it arrives, and in the meantime let us take advantage of our late appearing to study all the long strugglings of the past condensed in the accepted dogma of the present. If you were to go further and explore the exegesis of that dogma in the teachings of a long line of educational reformers, you would find there was less sting in the question than you imagined. Theory has in reality changed surprisingly little. The expression has, of course, altered. The terminology is different. The point of view swings from one angle to another, but the observed facts remain reassuringly constant. Take the word "suggestion." Nothing could be more modern with all that it brings to the mind of psycho-analysis and the like. Yet it is as old as the tale of the Garden of Eden. It is an advance in nomenclature rather than in fact, to put the blame on the subconscious self instead of on a personal devil. It is certainly getting nearer home, but I doubt if there is much comfort to be drawn from that.

There is, in short, more uniformity in the progress of educational theory than our question admits. To a certain extent, too, and apart altogether from the development of theory, school practice has changed with the manners of the world outside. It has accordingly grown more gentle, more sympathetic, more ready to approach life from the child's point of view. There are many brutalities still in the world. The war has calloused feeling and coarsened our perceptions, but it is unlikely that the school will ever again in-

dulge freely in corporal punishment. A small and tearful boy was left by his mother, also tearful, at the famous school of St. Paul's in the golden days of Dean Colet. Within an hour of his arrival he was soundly flogged for the double purpose of keeping him humble and of affording amusement to Erasmus, who was present on a visit, and who relates the incident. We have moved since then, but the change is as much due to the humanising process which has gone on in the manners of the outside world as to a change in fundamental principles.

In our zest to belittle the question, however, let us resist the temptation to protest too much. It is sufficient to make the point that educational theory has developed without undue haste, so that the changes, which may be enormous in the mass, are not too violent when one age is compared with its immediate predecessor. A glance at some of the favourite metaphors of pedagogical writers will show this gradual transmutation. Parenthetically, a warning should be urged against excessive indulgence in metaphors. They are, to include in a couple merely for practice, a cloak for woolly thinking. They are a handy steed on which to ride off from an unwelcome conclusion. With this caveat in mind, let us admit they have their uses. Take, for instance, the old tabula rasa, the shaved tablet of the pupil's mind, on which the teacher with his stylus might write what he would. Even a practical man knows that the simile is out of fashion. There are too many moulding influences at work on the mind of the child for it to bear any convincing resemblance to a freshly waxed tablet. There are no clean sheets in the biological world.

Forty years ago, Edward Thring, the Headmaster of Uppingham, wrote a book on education. It was an unusual thing to do, for the great Headmasters of the English Public Schools have helped to push the world along by the force of their personality rather than by the inspiration of their ideas. Thring, however, wrote a book, and one worth reading. In it he dwells on the futility of trying to fill a kettle without first removing the lid. Again the metaphor has become unfashionable. We do not like to think of the child having his

mind filled with information as a kettle is filled with water. We exclaim: "That is not education." At the same time, Thring does want the lid off before he begins operations, and so is working towards the useful and common-sense idea elaborated by Herbart in his Preparation Stage

Our metaphors in these days have all taken on a biological tinge. It is not quite a hundred years since Froebel published his magnum opus, and we like to think of the child as a growing plant, and of ourselves as the gardener. We may tend the plant, but life itself is the great teacher. Vivendo discimus is a maxim whose application must not be left till school days are over. The child must learn by living, and so, by way of Froebel's metaphor, we are led straight to the heart of modern educational theory. All real education is The teacher's task is to self-education. provide the fittest environment for the expanding, developing organism entrusted to his care. This is, in colloquial lan-guage, a somewhat "tall order," and it may be comforting to the craft instructor to know that in his case the full rigour of the Law may be abated. Its fulfilment is more practicable at the other end of the school, that is to say, in the infant room. There the curriculum of home activities, country activities, etc., lead the little one naturally along the normal path of his development. He is not filled like a kettle. He is merely put in the way of learning to do, to know, and to be what is appropriate to his stage of growth. The teacher is his guide through this fascinating microcosm. It sounds easy. It is really the most difficult job in the school. It takes a small equipment to enable one to teach a subject. It takes a very comprehensive equipment to enable one to teach a child. authorities who, at the present time, under the stress of a fatuously misnamed economy campaign, are engaging untrained women for infant room work, show how completely ignorant they are of the meaning of education.

As we move up the school from grade to grade, it becomes increasingly difficult to lay the curriculum exactly alongside life. Our theory is ahead of our practice, and it is to be hoped that in the years to come the professional conservatism of the

teacher will prove more yielding to changes which to-day sound revolutionary.

That, however, is by the way, and when we reach the work of the craft instructor we find that in several respects the problem is more immediately manageable. The interest of the pupil is easy to arouse. The subject is non-bookish; so are most youngsters. They are keen to tackle a pursuit which means doing, working with their hands. Further, the pupils have reached a stage when life's responsibilities are beginning to show above the horizon. They realise that the success of their future will, to a large extent, depend upon the skill which they acquire. They can see the reasonableness of having to learn, and are eager to get on in a line which is going to mean so much to them. Life and curriculum are once again coinciding. Interest thus easily aroused is of the greatest value to the teacher. It means that the pupil is ready to meet him more than half-way. Division of decimals or details of the heptarchy may appear whims of an oddly constituted Olympian, but in the mastery of basket-making or pianoforte-tuning the end and purpose are clearly seen.

Education text-books lay emphasis on interest, and in this they are right. Want of interest means the cessation of education. You can no more teach a boy who is uninterested, that is to say, against his will, than you can make a horse drink. Lack of this essential factor is usually responsible for most of those problems of class management and discipline which blacken the firmament of many a teacher's working days. It may be convenient, therefore, to say here what is necessary, and it is not much, about discipline. Words usually deteriorate in meaning as they rub along through the centuries. According to a recent ingenious philosopher, there is a tendency for immaterial as well as for material things to run down hill. Whether that be so or not, the word discipline is an exception with an upward tilt to its connotation. In old monkish days it meant indifferently a beating and the stick with which the beating was inflicted. Then it came to mean class order. It is not long since it was universal, and to-day it is still common for teachers' testimonials, in so far as these documents are subject to

the jurisdiction of truth, to contain the words, "he is a good disciplinarian." In the old days, when classes were larger than they are now, it was necessary for the teacher to have the power of dominating by the afflatus of his personality, by the stridency of his voice, and ultimately by the strength of his arm, his juvenile congregation. His order had to approximate to that of the drill sergeant. Things had to be done with a click and done in the mass. There was much to be said for the system. Its chief drawback was that it was not education. For that reason the size of classes was cut down. The intercourse between teacher and pupil became more human, and good discipline has come to mean that atmosphere of comradeship and common purpose in which the educative process can best flourish. But, it may be complained, this is too vague. "What I want to know is, should talking be allowed in class? How can I give an inch of liberty without the pupil demanding an ell?" Questions of that sort require answers of the recipe order which we decried a few minutes ago. Make the class order strict or free, whichever you prefer. The matter is not of first importance. So long as the discipline is good according to the definition given above, the order is of slight moment. This, however, may be added, that if strict, the strictness must be to a certain extent voluntary, a symptom of esprit de corps, and, if free, it must on no account be sloppy. In spite of frequent gibes, there is nothing invertebrate about the modern teacher.

It will be seen that we are brought by these last remarks to another much discussed and at the present time somewhat controversial province of pedagogics, the personality of the teacher. In face of the ultra moderns, it may be stated that the teacher cannot wash out his personality. We dare run the risk of being considered old-fashioned by saying that it is just as well. So long as his personality is of the right sort, and the teacher has enough skill in teaching to use it wisely, the more personality he has the better. Psycho-analysis, the newest offshoot of psychology, emphasises the need for wisdom in this direction. No one would lightly incur responsibility for creating such a dreadful

thing as a teacher complex. We must now believe that unconsciously as well as consciously the teacher's personality is affecting his pupils, and in their case also both with and without their awareness. To revert once again to metaphors as milestones in the development of theory, it may be noted that we have left the focus behind and are now aboard the iceberg. The mind had a focus of attention with all beside fading off into peripheral haziness. Now the mind is realised as having but a small part above the level of consciousness, with its greatest bulk and potency far below the surface.

It was said a short time ago that it was easier to teach a subject than a child, but after all the two cannot be dissociated. You must always have your double accusative to the verb doces, and all that can be varied is the emphasis you lay upon one or the other. The craft instructor must. like the infant teacher, go the whole way with his pupil. We want in the future a better type of workman. We want the old ideal of craftsmanship restored. We want the worker to find the joy of life in the exercise of his skill. To that end we must have the true educational atmosphere in our training shops. To be encouraged to search for truth and beauty in his work —to take pride in a thing well done—will help, not hinder, his ultimate capacity for

wage-earning. The craft instructor, too, must remember that his pupils are at that stage of life called adolescence. It is a curious period, with its high exaltations of idealism, its deep depressions, its hero-worship and its rebellions. As we grow old we become flippant, but to the young man or woman life is a serious affair. The young mind reaches out beyond its grasp, and so there is a lack of sureness and an exasperation that only a wise friend can allay. To be a steadying, reassuring influence at such times, to be calm in counsel, helpful, sympathetic and encouraging, is no small part of the teacher's function. Every teacher, and especially every teacher of the adolescent, should know by heart the conclusion of William James's great chapter on Habit. He need not quote it to his pupils, but if he has made it an integral part of his own working philosophy, he will find himself strengthened thereby for this part

of his task. James has been insisting on the importance of small acts, of their cumulative effect on career and character. "Nothing we ever do," he says, "is, in strict scientific literalness, wiped out.' After pointing the moral of this in regard to undesirable habits, James goes on: "Of course, this has its good side as well as its bad one. As we become permanent drunkards by so many drinks, so we become saints in the moral, and authorities and experts in the practical and scientific spheres, by so many separate acts and hours of work. Let no youth have any anxiety about the upshot of his education, whatever the line of it may be. If he keep faithfully busy each hour of the working day, he may safely leave the final result to itself. He can with perfect certainty count on waking up some fine morning to find himself one of the competent ones of his generation, in whatever pursuit he may have singled out. Silently, between all the details of his business, the power of judging in all that class of matter will have built itself up within him as a possession that will never pass away Young people should know this truth in advance. The ignorance of it has probably engendered more discouragement and faint-heartedness in youths embarking on arduous careers than all other causes put together." Happy is the teacher who can bring such help and consolation to his pupils in their hour of need.

Mr. Ritchie's address was followed, as on preceding days, by discussion and demonstration. In the afternoon an excursion took place to the Association for the General Welfare of the Blind, Tottenham Court Road, London, W., where workshop activities were seen to advantage. In the evening the students met at Swiss Cottage to enjoy a social evening, it being felt that much good work would be gained by the encouragement of friendly intercourse.

On Friday, the 26th May, at 10 a.m., A. Eichholz, Esq., M.D., Chief Medical Inspector of the Board of Education, took the chair, and Ben Purse, Esq., of the National Institute, gave an address on "Commercial Aspects of Industrial Training." This address was published in the June and July issues of the *Beacon*.

It is worthy of note that during the entire proceedings the students present evinced a remarkable degree of eagerness to learn and to improve the standard of their work. A cordial vote of thanks to the College was passed, and the hope expressed that further courses of a similar nature would be held under its auspices.

BLIND STUDENT'S ACHIEVEMENT

SIR,—We must all feel delighted that
Mr Tylor should have achieved
the signal success recorded under this
heading in your valuable journal. I and
other members of the public would be glad
of a little more information as touching
the scholarship referred to therein as I was
not aware that the N.I.B. had funds for
that purpose.

Whilst we must all accord the National Institute due praise for the work it has done, it is fair to say that Mr. Tylor would not have been in so advantageous a position but for the existence of the National Library for the Blind, not to speak of the Student Library for the Blind, which has existed at Oxford ever since 1898, and for which a devoted army of ladies has done yeoman service.

Finally, Mr. Tylor is not the second but the third blind man to take a "First" in Jurisprudence at Oxford, the second having been Mr. Shaw, who took his degree in 1894, and is now head of the Blind Institution at Sunderland.

Yours, etc.,

Walter H. Dixson (M.A.) [Reference to the published accounts of the National Institute for the year ended 31st March, 1922, shows that the sum of £4,488 was expended by the Institute in "Scholarships, Exhibition and Training Fees." We note with much satisfaction that the National Library and the Oxford Students' Library were able to assist Mr. Tylor by the loan of books. The National Institute also lent Mr. Tylor thirty-five volumes of Law Works.

We think Mr. Dixson is in error in stating that Mr. Shaw is the head of the Sunderland Institution for the Blind. Is he not in charge of the School for the Blind? These are separate organisations.

--Editor.]



"UP FROM THE HILLS"





SLENDER volume, on the green cover of which are sketched a few pine-trees, a log-cabin and distant mountain-peaks. Within a world of suffering, of renunciation, of hopes born and shattered, of final triumph and "making good."

triumph and "making good."

Cory Hanks came up from
the hills. "Followed," he
says, "that long, crooked, slip-

, pery trail that winds between the crests of the cliffs, over the rocks, by the pine-trees, and through the snow-drifts." Here were spent his boyhood days,-here in the mountains and meadows, with the murmuring pines as companions, he shouted and sang and played brave games of derring-do. This happy time over, he was "kicked and cuffed through seven grades of a very ordinary country school in Charleston, Utah." There followed the ardent desire for a college career, and in order to pay for this he determined to work in the mines during vacation time. A mining job offered itself in Utah, and Hanks set to work with a will: - "There is a fascination in mining which I remember vet. How we dug in the dark, cold, slimy wet; we saw the glittering silver sparkle in the gleam of the candle's dim light. It looked like a halo of fortune peering at us." The goal was reached, the money won, and the contract work completed. Hanks and his companions pext heard of a mine near Nephi on Mount Nebo, on which they took a lease. On a rainy, October day the expedition started. Up and up and up the mountain-side wound the little procession, and for the last time Hanks beheld "the great line of snow-capped peaks standing like monuments to the glory of God." mind was full of strange foreboding. Before him, he felt, was some great experience hitherto unknown.

Arrived at their destination the little band set to work. The tunnel was planned; Hanks drilled the holes. "The work went on with a rush. The burro train went down time after time with packs of lead and silver until the car was loaded. Then came the time for us to market, and, of course, the two older fellows must go. My partner and I stayed on alone to forward the cause, while the old chaps went to town to pocket the cash.

The mischief that awaited him was " in the blacksmith's shop." A box of caps and a coil of fuse were becoming wet in the drip of the melting frost. Hanks picked them up and placed them in front of the rock to dry in the sun. Noontide came, holes were drilled; it was time for the blasting to begin. Having bidden his partner go and prepare their meal, Hanks picked up the box. He had waited one second too long. A deafening roar, and "I found myself lying on the rocks about fifteen feet from where the explosion occurred. Immediately I rolled over, and stood up, calm, sane, and collected. My hands were gone, my eyes were blind. . . My face was smarting as if I had been hit with a handful of gravel; my clothes were torn and burned; in fact, most of them were gone. My body was bruised and cut, and flying particles of copper had played havoc with my eyes."

His partner rushed, horrified, to the scene, assisted him back to the cabin, and bound up his arms to check the flow of blood. A minute examination revealed the fact that the right eye was shattered. All that day and part of the night Hanks endured the terrible ordeal of waiting, alone and in pain and misery, for the return of his companion with the doctor whom he had set out to find. In his delirium he suffered agonies of thirst, and

conjured up tantalising visions of mountain springs with crystal-clear water bubbling through the pebbles and the sand.

At length the doctor came, and rebandaged the shattered arms. "Opium and chloroform did the rest. . . . I was peaceful and happy through the night, and when the grey dawn of morning lighted the way over the crags, the fellows loaded me on a stretcher made of canvas and boards, and down the mountain-side, over the cliffs and ice they carried their burden to the bottom of the glorious gorge." In pain and misery, with infinite joltings and jerkings, Hanks was conveyed, first by wagon, then by railway, to the far-off hospital. Here an operation took place, from which he awoke to face the misery of a wrecked life. "The physical misery was excruciating, but the mental torture is hard to describe. Thoughts of the future tortured me, and in the midst of my trouble my friends came along. They shed a few tears, and I heard them say as they went away: 'It's too bad it didn't kill him. . .

"In that pile of life's ruins," he continues, "I left many treasures behind; stripped stark naked of health, money, and sweetheart, I faced life alone. . . In place of independence—helplessness. . Everything seemed at an end." One day the doctor read to him a poem by Edmund Vance Cooke, entitled: "How Did You Die?" This made a great impression on his mind, and helped to brighten many of the dark days to come. Later Hanks met the author, who presented him with the poem, which he frequently quoted in his lectures.

The time came when he was to leave the hospital. He bade farewell to the kindly matron, who said: "I wonder who will wait on you when you leave here?" He answered: "Maybe five years from to-day I'll be doing it myself." At this she laughed, and said: "You're crazy." And thus, broken in body, but with unbroken will, Hanks returned home, "to start all over again." The task was a hard one. "The harder I tried the less I did. The little things grew bigger. The details were a mountain of difficulties. I could

not dress, wash, comb my hair, or brush my teeth, had to be led wherever I went, and all my money was gone. I hadn't a cent in the world. Steadily this thing grew, born of trouble, misery, disappointment, till I learned my great lesson: Man, it's up to you!'

As a first step towards independence, Hanks learned to dress and feed himself. The next problem was how to earn a livelihood. One April morning, "with a small boy and a grip of knitwear," he started off, taking orders and selling, for all the world like a street hawker. Things went hardly. Orders were miswritten, wrong measurement given, articles were bought purely from philanthropic motives. With the Spring, however, he was able to pay both hospital and doctors. "A glimmer of light in my left eye shimmered and shrank, better and bad, till the oculist said: 'There's a chance in ten thousand: we must do it now.' " He was sent back to the hospital, and—with an operation for appendicitis as interlude,-came repeated attempts to save the sight of the remaining eye. "In due time the bandage was lifted. Just the glimmer of sight was there. No change, only the eye was miserably sore. The doctor looked it over carefully: 'We must try once more. Go back to the country, and get well. Come in and we will cut it again." This attempt was repeated five times, always with the same result, until, after the last operation, even the faint glimmer had disappeared. Hanks found himself plunged in total darkness.

And now he faced the world—sightless, handless, but with the indomitable courage born of infinite faith and hope. He bought and sold, gathered up mining stocks, and by the end of two years had paid the doctors and hospitals a total sum of 1,350.00 dollars. Again his thoughts turned to education, and he considered the possibility of study. "After a while," he says, "there came a great teacher, who showed me how to begin." This teacher was Mr. Byron King, who taught Hanks to memorise and reclaim the learning of former years. Hanks then went about from place to place, lecturing, but he was still anxious to improve his knowledge. "In the year 1915 I had

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finished all my lecture dates. I could deliver a lecture, but I had nothing to say. To learn new things was up to me. Tortured by many doubts and fears, I took two ragged grips and started toward my first great university." It was at Leland Stanford, California, that he met an old friend, a professor, who furnished him with an introduction to Dr. Elliott, the Registrar of Stanford University. Later he travelled "through the snow sheds, over the Sierra Nevadas, on to San Francisco, to the Exhibition, and then to Palo Alto. This is where I landed with fifteen dollars to get an education." And this is where he spent between two and three years in the study of History, Science, French, German and English. His evenings were occupied in lecturing.

Now he travels, lectures, entertains his friends, and returns with a glad heart to . his wife and his snug little home in Idaho. His lectures are a source of profit and enjoyment to many college classes. Writing of a lecture delivered at the classes in social ethics at Harvard, Mr. Richard Cabot says: "I am confident that to many of the students he brought a new ideathat his terrible misfortune has been met in a spirit that makes it better for him and for all who know him than if it had never happened. Good out of evil speaks in Mr. Hanks, because he tells of what he knows, and proves what he says by his life. . . . Any class in school or college will be the better and the wiser for having seen and heard him."

This, then, is the story of Cory Hanks —a true story with a happy ending, which "he who runs may read.



THE After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind report that during the month of September, 75 fresh cases came under their care (40 men and 35 women). Gifts to the number of 22 were provided at a cost of £63 14s. The number of visits paid was 50. The amount expended in training fees was £49 12s., in relief £406 14s. 113d., and in relief administered by Branches £31 7s. Other grants and payments amounted to the sum of £4 7s. $6\frac{1}{2}$ d.

BASKET-MAKING EXAMINATION

THE results of the Basket-making Examination, held under the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Basket-makers at the Girdlers' Hall, on September 26th, are now to hand. In the Blind Section there were 150 entries. Of

3 competitors obtained the special money prize of 30s. each.

5 competitors obtained the special money prize of 10s. each.

44 obtained First Class Certificates. 23 obtained Second Class Certificates. 26 obtained Third Class Certificates.

93 = percentage of successes 62.0

It will be remembered that certificates were offered for the best specimens of

 Hampers and skeps.
 Market and Gardeners' Work.
 General Basket Work (Randed and Slewed).
 General Basket Work (Fitched). 5. Cane and Wicker Furniture. Analysis of the Certificates shows :-

	-	Classes,									
nd	Class	Awards Awards Awards	1 6 5 3	2 1 0 0	3 28 9 13	4 1 2 2	5 8 7 8	To	tal. 44 23 26		
									_		
									93		

The successes achieved by the various Institutions are as follows:

institutions are as iollows:—			
	Ce	rtifica	tes.
		2nd.	
London Association for the Blind	15	8	2
(and one prize of 30s.)			
Blind Employment Factory	8	4	3
(and two prizes of 10s.)		•	
Incorporated Association for Promot-			
ing the General Welfare of the Blind	4	2	2
(and 1 prize of 30s, and two	•	_	_
prizes of 10s.)			
London Society for Teaching and			
Training the Blind	4	1	4
Royal Institute for the Blind, Sheffield	2	ó	í
(and one prize of 10s.)	_		•
Cheltenham and Gloucester Society for			
the Blind	2	1	3
School for the Blind, Liverpool	1	ō	0
(and one prize of 30s.)	-		
Royal Midland Institute for the Blind	1	1	0
West London Workshops for the Blind	î	î	2
Cardiff Institute for the Blind	î	Ô	1
Catholic Blind Asylum, Liverpool	1	0	1
Barclay Home for Blind Girls,	-	-	-
Brighton	1	1	0
Torquay and District Home Teaching			
Society for the Blind	1	0	0
Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh	0	1	0
Jersey Blind Association	Õ	õ	
Margate Blind Association	Ö	0	1
Unattached	2	3	5
	-		-

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

CARDIFF INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.—sult of the coal strike, trade during the year under review has been disappointing. Sales to the value of £7,462 were effected. Wages paid to blind workers amounted to the sum of £1,931, and augmentation wages to £3,861. On the 31st March the names of 84 workers appeared on the Institute's register. During the year the Institute's buildings have undergone extension, and accommodation for twenty more workers has thereby been effected. The Blind Workers' Social Club continues to be greatly appreciated.



B RADFORD ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR port of this Institution records a total of 525 persons on the register. amounted to £22,875, a figure which, owing to general trade depression, fell much below that of the previous year. The sum of £3,239 was paid in wages to blind workers at trade union rates, whilst that of £2,968 was paid in excess. Legacies and special donations to the total value of £816 were received. The Committee express regret that, owing to reasons of health, Miss Mitchell has been obliged to relinquish her post as Hon. Secretary to the Institution. It is hoped that the new workshops at Frizinghall will be opened in a few months' time.



W E are interested to learn that the third prize of £10, offered by the Italian Chamber of Commerce in a competition between students of the Evening Institutes of the London County Council in London for Italian, has been awarded to Mr. Michael Dodd, who is a blind member of the National Institute for the Blind. Mr. Dodd has also obtained a second class in Italian at the Royal Society of Arts, Stage 3, advanced. During his preparation for these examinations Mr. Dodd obtained great assistance from books put into Braille by the Manuscript Department of the National Institute.

A SECOND SUNSHINE HOUSE

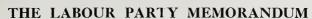
THE National Institute for the Blind has long been aware of the urgent necessity of providing additional accommodation for blind babies under five years of age. "Sunshine House," Chorley Wood, Herts, the only Blind Babies' home in the British Empire, was established in October, 1918. Since then the home has always been full and there has been a waiting list of blind babies seeking admittance. The National Institute has now acquired the property known as "Westlands," 2, Oxford Road, Birkdale, Southport, which will be opened as a second Sunshine House.

In this further provision for blind babies under the age of five years the Institute feel confident that the national problem of the blind baby is well on the way to solution.

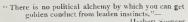
BLIND BOY SCOUTS

MONG the 60,000 Boy Scouts who were reviewed by the Prince of Wales at Alexandra Palace on the 7th October, was the 28th Croydon Troop, consisting of blind boys from the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood. It is of interest to record that one of the members of this troop, Alfred Havnes, effected the rescue from drowning of another blind scout, Paul Dyer. The boys were at play in the college grounds when they were tempted to go out of bounds in search of the walnuts and chestnuts which had fallen from the trees on the far side of the lake. On this unfamiliar ground Dyer, who is totally blind, jumped over a chain which he thought ran alongside a path. He fell head foremost into the lake, striking his head against the bottom, and was so badly dazed that he was in great danger of drowning. With admirable promptitude Haynes groped about in the water until he was able to grasp Dyer's arm and eventually hoist him on to the steep bank

Haynes has been recommended for a Scout Gilt Cross as a reward for his plucky and prompt action.



By BEN PURSE



Herbert Spencer

N the last issue of this journal we published an article under the above heading, appears to have attracted considerable attention. We are grateful to our many correspondents for their observations, and much regret that want of space precludes us from reproducing many of the critical remarks we have been pleased to note. With

those letters that have been merely abusive we have no concern: the article was written in good faith and was an attempt to explain in detail the advantages that are emanating from the Blind Persons Act, 1920, and to give up-to-date and reliable information in connection with our national expenditure. It was expressly stated that we found many points of agreement with the Labour Party Memorandum and that it was in no wise an attempt to constitute ourselves apologists for the Ministry of Health. The policy being pursued by the Ministry has many able exponents and needs no assistance in that direction from us.

In the following paragraphs we merely propose to deal with some of the most pertinent criticisms that have been offered. with a view to correcting the misconcep-

tions which evidently exist.

Certain correspondents have suggested that we are ill-advised in describing the evidence in the Labour Party Memorandum as "flimsy," but we have no reason whatever to do otherwise. In logic an isolated instance cannot be legitimately used to prove a general principle, and this is the error which is made in the memorandum before us, since it seeks to base general statements upon one or two instances. which of themselves would not bear reasonable examination.

We have the right to expect, when we know that a Research Committee under very responsible auspices has been busy examining proposals and situations, that such examination would at least lead the authorities to make practical and statesmanlike recommendations, and we repeat again, without qualification, that there is nothing in the nature of original suggestions or recommendations contained in this document. It is exclusively a partisan manifesto, designed wholly for platform purposes and with little or no regard for

The evidence we adduced when we pointed out that the authors of this manifesto were apparently confused between estimates and actual expenditure should be sufficient to leave the whole document as at least one upon which no valid re-

liance can be placed.

Yet another correspondent says "Re Finance. It is obvious the State has only found for practical purposes £69,886. ignore pensions, as they fall in the category of the Old Age Pension and should never be brought into the realm of the blind."

This is perhaps the most superficial criticism we have yet met with. £69,886 is admittedly a direct contribution to the voluntary associations, but what about the £44,000 contributed by Local Authorities? Then we are asked to believe that the £230,000 granted annually to persons between 50 and 70 years of age should be left out of count. This is exceedingly foolish, because under Section I. of the Blind Persons Act you have the only legal sanction which exists for the payment of this money, and none of these pensions would have been paid, of course, had it not been for the Blind Persons Act. We deliberately left out of our calculations those blind persons of 70 years of age and upwards who have other statutory rights to pensions, and therefore it is proven beyond doubt that the £230,000 pensions claim must rank as national expenditure, at least, if national finance means anything at all.

It is noteworthy in this connection to observe that of the applications made for pensions under the Blind Persons Act, 93 per cent. receive the full amount of the Treasury grant. Here again the Labour Party Memorandum absolutely ignores the facts.

We are asked to believe that criticism of the Inspectorate is justified, because forsooth, we are told it involves a considerable item of expenditure. position of an Inspector is that of a subordinate official. He is not responsible for initiating policy and must in all essentials give effect to the line of conduct prescribed by his Department. We say again, that it is paltry for an important official document to make silly, stupid, unfounded charges against individuals in order to bolster up a case. So far as expenditure is concerned it is a mere bagatelle compared with the utility of the offices that have been created, and those who are on the look out for economies would be better employed if they devoted their talents to more worthy fields of enterprise.

We are asked this pertinent question by a correspondent whose opinions we value: "Can you contend, excepting the National Institute for the Blind, that voluntaryism is worth capitalising to the tune of £69,886 of the taxpayers' money." May we say in the first place that these grants in aid are not capital expenditure; they are given to meet current needs and therefore it is foolish to say that the Voluntary Institutions are being capitalised by grants that are thus being conferred. None of these monies may be invested, and consequently the financial assistance thus given does not rank as capital expenditure.

We are not endeavouring to establish a case for voluntaryism. Had we been so doing our arguments and evidence would have been marshalled in a very different fashion. We have stated over and over again that in our judgment the tendencies of modern philanthropy are such that you must associate, and that in a very close degree, the work of Voluntary

Associations with national and municipal co-operation and financial assistance.

The history of this country is not what we find it to-day as a result of scrapping old and well tried Institutions; they have been reshaped and remodelled to meet the changing conditions, and so it must inevitably be with the progress we desire to make in that sphere which we call the Blind world. "Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis."

Several correspondents appear to have misunderstood our references to the percentages of employed, unemployed and unemployable blind persons. We did not compare the blind worker with his sighted compatriot; such a comparison only exists in the imagination of those who drew inferences where no such were intended. We did, however, suggest that the number of unemployed blind persons was a fraction over 9 per cent. of the employed and expressed a doubt "if during times of normal trade, there is any community of severely handicapped people which shows a more satisfactory state of things."

We have had time to look into this phase of the problem and from statistical and other evidence that is available the assertion is more than justified. There is nothing here then that needs either to be qualified or withdrawn.

Some concern seems to exist in the minds of certain people with regard to those paragraphs in which we wrote of the futility of attempting to penalise Local Authorities for not giving effect to the Act of 1920. We repeat with emphasis that you cannot inflict penalties, even had the legislative authorities been so ill advised as to have inserted such penalty clauses in the Act, which, of course, they did not.

The methods that have been adopted by the Ministry of Health provide the only sane and safe course that can be followed, and the facts speak for themselves. Of 94 Local Authorities charged with the responsibility, 76 have already responded and a number are engaged upon the preparation of schemes. These we repeat are facts, not fantastic imaginings conjured up by irresponsible people, who appear to have little concern to ascertain the exact state of things.

It is rather late in the day to attempt to practise upon the writer of these articles the stale gibe which comes to most people who see fit to change their point of view on some particular issue or issues. In the articles which we published earlier in the year on the "Economics of Industry," we frankly admitted that our view point had been modified and even changed in respect of some important phases of the economic problems concerning the blind community. We gave substantial reasons for such changes, and entirely fail to see how the value of our work can be vitiated because from time to time we must needs take stock of our ideas and ascertain whether they are in accord with a true estimate of any given situation. That we were mistaken in some of our conceptions in the past is freely admitted, but someone has said very tritely, that "the man who never made a mistake never made anything." Memorandum before us teems with mistakes and cannot be regarded as a reliable or safe guide for anyone desiring up-todate information in respect of the social and industrial conditions of the Blind.

STATE AID FOR AMERICAN BLIND

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ON September 25th Mr. P. E. Layton, President of the Montreal Association for the Blind, Mrs. Layton, Secretary to the Association, and two representatives of the Nazareth Institute, laid before members of the provincial government their claims to further State aid for the blind. Mr. Layton urged that it was the duty of the Legislature to educate its sightless as well as its sighted citizens, and that the education of the blind should no more be considered in the light of charity than that of the sighted. He expressed strong disapproval of blind persons begging in the streets, but until institutions received further financial aid from the Government it was impossible to provide accommodation and training for this handi-capped class of society. The premier and the provincial secretary promised their sympathetic consideration of the matter.

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What else can joy be but diffusing joy. —Byron.

CONCERT OF MUSIC BY BLIND COMPOSERS

THE National Institute for the Blind is to be warmly congratulated on the success of the concert held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Thursday, October 12th. The programme was made up entirely of the Works of British Blind Composers, and, with three exceptions, was drawn from the National Institute Another feature of the concert Edition. was that, with the exception of Mr. Etcheverria, all the artistes were blind, the composers, in many cases, performing their own works. The performers were follows: -Mr. W. Wolstenholme (organ and piano), Mr. Sinclair Logan piano and vocalist), Mr. H. V. Spanner (organ and piano), Mr. F. H. Etcheverria (vocalist, accompanied by Mr. Newell, in two of the latter's songs), and Mr. Ernest Whitfield (violin). Composers whose works were included, but who did not perform themselves, were: —H. G. Oke, T. G. Osborn, H. F. Watling, Llewelyn Williams and A. Wrigley. All the performers gave admirable rendering of the works entrusted to them, indeed, it was well that no encores were permitted, for there is no doubt that the large and appreciative audience would have demanded the repetition of almost every item. Mr. J. A. Meale, F.R.C.O., Director of Music at the Central Hall, who sent an apology for his unavoidable absence. with best wishes to his "Brother Artistes," provided two themes upon which Mr. Wolstenholme gave a masterly improvisa-

tion, which was greatly appreciated.

During the interval, Mr. Edward Watson—to whom all thanks are due for his untiring efforts to make the concert a success—gave a brief account of the work of the National Institute in producing Braille music and literature, laying special emphasis on the fact that the blind musician learnt his music from Braille, and not by ear, as is still widely believed.

Concerts like these serve a most useful purpose in informing the public of what blind musicians can do.

H. E. C. Lewis.

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THE labour we delight in physics pain.
—Shakespeare.

SHOULD MODERN NOVELS BE PUT TO THE BRAILLE TEST?

"INTERESTING, yes, but will it stand the test of Braille?" This new standard of literary criticism is put forward by Miss Emma Wise, who, in a recent article in the Star, suggests that if the time should ever come when authors would be required to submit their work to the Braille test before publication, novels would be shorn of much redundant and inconsistent matter.

A blind reader recently told Miss Wise that until she began to read Braille she had never realised how needlessly writers repeat and how absurdly their characters behave. "When reading print," she remarked, "we are swept along by the story, provided it is interesting enough to sweep one along, and have no time to notice irrelevancies and superfluities, but in Braille we notice everything." This lady lost her sight at the age of 50. Books had been her constant companions, and it is interesting to note the impression old favourites made upon her when re-visited in Braille. Most books, she found, are too diffuse. Unless a book is frankly of the descriptive or contemplative order. descriptions and philosophical interludes tire, for one cannot skip in Braille as in print.

Of all authors, she seems to think that Thomas Hardy stands the Braille test best. "This," says Miss Wise, "is because he has a story to tell. In Braille, as in print, the very sentence grips and holds. Without preliminaries the reader launched into a world where human beings are at grips with fate. There is no literary philandering; everything counts; even descriptions are vital. The varying voices of the leaves, the winds on Egdon Heath, are as truly characters as Giles Winterbourne and Eustacia Vye. A type of story that comes out particularly well in Braille is the American "crook" or adventure story. These are entertaining, in spite of their occasional repulsiveness of theme, for the simple reason that the authors have something to sav and say it without waste of words. Humorous books are apt to fare badly in Braille.

It takes a good joke to stand the test of picking it out with one's fingers. 'Three Men in a Boat' is, however, an outstanding Braille success.''

BRAILLE IN INDIA

THE Times of India recently drew attention to an article concerning the blind in that country which appeared in the Calcutta Review. The writer, Professor P. M. Advani, contends that the education of the blind in India is in the worst state of confusion. There are now, he says, some ten schools for the blind in the whole country. These provide educational or industrial training for about 400 of the 600,000 blind in India. They use the Braille system of raised notation for teaching reading and writing, which can without difficulty be used for all the Indian vernaculars. But of the four different attempts at Braille adaptation used in these schools, Mr. Advani found that no two were alike. Any of them could with few alterations be utilised for any Indian language, but each was kept intact because its teachers claimed that it was better than the others. According to Mr. Advani the Bombay Government have passed a formal resolution permitting the use of two different systems for teaching Marathi in the two schools for the blind in Bombay. "Obviously," says The Times of India, "there ought to be a careful examination of the matter, so that one Braille system shall be utilised throughout India. The Educational Department of the Government of India, which has little to do now that education is a Provincial subject, might improve the time by looking into the matter."



THE Board of Education call attention to the fact that all teachers who served in recognised service under the Governing Body after 31st May, 1922, are liable to pay contributions under the School Teachers (Superannuation) Act, 1922, unless exempted by the provisions thereof. Any claim for exemption should be referred to the Board.

THE HADLEY CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Simmuning &



HE Hadley Correspondence
School for the Blind (Illinois,
U.S.A.) was organised for the
purpose of giving instruction to
those who have passed out from
Institutions for the Blind and
are desirous of continuing some
form of study, and for those
who have lost their sight after
the years of school age who wish
to learn to read raised type and

to pursue some form of study.

The founder, William A. Hadley, was for many years a teacher, and some few years ago he lost his sight. He realised the condition in which many blind people are placed, and at the suggestion of a friend he undertook the work of giving them instruction by correspondence.

Friends became interested in the work and recognised its future possibilities, so that with their assistance a budget was provided for the maintenance of the

school during its first year.

In order not to discourage many who desired to take courses and who were too dependent to be able to pay fees, it was decided to make instruction free to the blind, whilst giving those who felt able to do so an opportunity to help in the support of the school.

It was found impossible to make progress without text books especially adapted to the needs of the pupils, and as a result the following books have thus far been prepared and printed in Revised Braille, Grade 1 and one-half:—

A Primer for Adults; a text on Business Correspondence; a text on Salesmanship; a text on English Grammar; a text on the Technique of the Short Story, and a collection of typical short stories to be used in conjunction with the book on Technique; and a book treating on the Literary Study of the Bible, entitled "The Worker and his Bible."

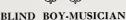
These books are loaned to the pupils free of charge. It is planned to prepare and print further books as soon as possible

In other subjects, for example:—The History of English Literature, The History of American Literature, American History and Civics, Psychology, etc., the pupils are advised as to books obtainable at various libraries for the blind. Outlines and directions for work are sent to the pupils, and reports are returned to the school. These are read and criticised by the various instructors.

That there is a field for such an undertaking is apparent from the growth of the school in one year. More than three hundred blind people have within this time asked for courses, and they represent nearly every state in the Union, Canada, China, India, and the Philippine Islands.

The American Association of Workers for the Blind has given its hearty endorsement to this plan of work, and all who are interested in the work for the blind are giving it their generous co-operation.

The school offices are situated in Winnetka, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.



W E understand that James Saunders, a blind boy holding a Brighton scholarship at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, has at the end of his first year obtained the Associateship of the Royal College of Organists, The examination fee of £2 2s. is being paid by the Brighton Education Committee.



"A man is relieved and gay when he has put his heart into his work and done his best; but what he has said or done otherwise shall give him no peace."

-Emerson.

OPHTHALMIC HOSPITALS IN EGYPT

F ROM the eighth annual report of the Ophthalmic Section issued by the Director of Ophthalmic Hospitals in Cairo, and covering the year 1920, the Lancet learns that the number of ophthalmic hospitals in Egypt has increased to 20, of which five are travelling hospitals. The number of new patients treated during the year was 94,921, the number of operations performed was 56,503, and the number of attendances of out-patients was over one million. The system was inaugurated in 1903, when the late Sir Ernest Cassel created a Trust Fund of £41,000 for the purpose of teaching ophthalmology to qualified Egyptian medical men. The bulk of the existing blindness in Egypt is due to acute con-Out of 108,000 patients examined 5,000 were blind in both eves, another 10,000 being blind in one eye.

In the course of a paper read at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association Mr. A. F. MacCallan, C.B.E., F.R.C.S. Eng., Director of the Egyptian Government Ophthalmic Hospitals, recorded the fact that it was he who had been called upon to organise and direct the movement. "We started," he says, "with one travelling hospital in tents and one Egyptian medical officer, at a place one hundred miles distant from any sort of civilisation. A few years later, on my recommendation, the Egyptian Government took over the organisation and undertook to maintain permanent hospitals in each of the fourteen provinces, if we were able to raise a sufficient sum to build and equip each hospital from local sources. We have succeeded in raising a sum of about £100,000 since then, and have built, or are building, a permanent There is one hospital for each province. exception-the province of Assouanwhere one of the original travelling hospitals has been allocated to the long and narrow stretch of country which intervenes between Assouan town in the south and Luxor in the north. Besides the permanent hospitals in the capital of each province, several of the provincial or county councils are maintaining hospitals under my direction. A small central laboratory for clinical investigations in temporary premises in the vicinity of Cairo is about to be replaced by an adequate building adjacent to the new hospital at Giza. This laboratory is within a quarter of an hour's drive from the centre of Cairo, and will be most convenient both for teaching and for research. The cost of its erection has been defrayed by the Imperial War Graves Commission. Besides actual hospital work, inspection and treatment by the ophthalmic staff in the Government Primary Schools has been in force since 1908."

From the foregoing account it will be noted that there has been organised in Egypt a useful system of special hospitals and a very vigorous school of ophthalmology.

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PROHIBITION AND BLINDNESS

"THOSE who advocate Prohibition in this country," says the Evening Standard, "will be interested to read the reportust issued by the American National Committee for the prevention of blindness.

"This states that 130 deaths and 22 cases of blindness have been traced as being caused during the first six months of this year by wood alcohol drinking. The total number is probably far larger if full records were made.

"Before Prohibition was enforced in America the average number of deaths per whole year from wood alcohol drinking was only three or four."

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SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE BLIND, December, 1922

The next EXAMINATION for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S. E. 19, will be held on the 2nd and 4th of December. Candidates must have reached the age of sixteen on or before the date of the Examination; must have resided in England or Wales for the last five years, and be intending to remain resident. Application should be made to the PRINCIPAL on or before Saturday, the 18th November, and the Forms, properly filled in and completed, returned to the College before the 25th November, or the candidate's name will not be placed on the list.

BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the October Numbers

- Progress.—The Guilds of England—Tuning a Bell— Bird Migration—"St. Francis to the Birds" (Poem)—Garden Notes (October)—National Library for the Blind—Our Prize Competitions—The Lahour Party Memorandum—Matters of the Moment—Correspondence—The Question-Box—Chess—Our Home Page. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum).
- The Literary Journal.—Gilhert and Sullivan.—From the Outposts—The Life History of the Plaice—Some Aspects of Modernism—Britain's Oil Triumph—National Library for the Blind—Recent Additions to the Massage Library—A Century in Regent Street—Palestine Salt—A Hindu Lady—An Unknown City (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum).
- School Magazine.—The Story of Famous Books (III)
 "The Count of Monte Cristo," by Alexandre Dumas
 (to be continued)—The Bass Rock and its Feathered
 Inhabitants, by R. Fortune, F.Z. S.—Erasmus (1466–
 1536)—Queries—The Writing of a Great History
 (from "The Autohiography of Edward Gibbon")—
 Nature's Mechanism ("My Magazine")—Biography
 in Brief: Schubert (1797–1828)—The Fruiterers'
 Tribute ("Christian Science Monitor")—The Charcoal Burner (Poem), by Edmund Gosse—Floating
 Trains ("Little Folks")—Street Scenes in Old
 Palermo, by E. D. Ward—Sponge Fisheries—Salt.
 (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d.
 per annum).
- Comrades. The Wrong Prince, by Christine Chaundler The Mole and its Habits ("Little Folks") The New Hat (Grade I) The Owl's Nest ("Children's Newspaper") Puzzles The Chocolate Bus ("Punch") The Cat and the Wizard ("My Magazine.") (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum).
- Musical Magazine.—How to Obtain More Pupils— Sir Charles Santley—A Visit to Stockholm—Current Topics — Advertisement — Success of Well-known Blind Organist — The National Library's Music Librarian—The Blind Composers Concert at Westminster—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews—Inset: Song, "Creole Cradle Song," by G. H. Clutsam; Piane, "Caprice in C," by S. Logan; Organ, "Fanfare," by J. Lemmens. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 7s. 6d. per annum).
- The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. Annual subscription: 7s. 6d., abroad 11s. 6d.
- Home Teacher Required for BLIND WELFARE WORK in the County Borough of Stoke-on-Trent. Should be competent to teach Braille and Moon and some handicrafts. Salary £156 per annum. Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, to be made to Mr. J. C. ELLIOTT, Secretary, North Staffs. Workshops and Welfare Committee for the Blind, Victoria Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

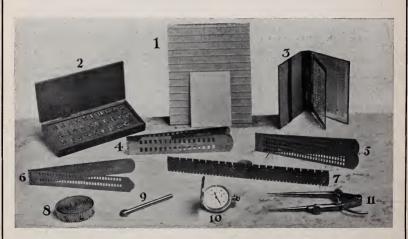
- Massage Journal, being the official organ of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs.— Official Notices—News in the Massage World—Notes on the Routine and Electrical Treatment of Flat Foot—The Basis of So-called Neurasthenic States, by T. A. Williams, M.B., C.M.—Some Observations on "Tennis Elbow," by Frank Romer, F.R.C.S.—The Objective Study of Neurosis (II) (concluded), by F. L. Golla, M.B. Oxon., F.R.C.P. London. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum).
- Channels of Blessing.—Editorial Notes and Notices
 —George Compton Smith—The Shadow of Death—
 Sacrifice and Sympathy—Notes and Meditations on
 Church History—God's Music—Our Letter from
 India—Explanation of a Text—A Little Prison
 Flower—"I have called thee by thy name"—The
 New Movement in France—"My Lord and I"—
 Gleatings—Books for Sale—The Norris Memorial
 Prayer Union—With Christ in the School of Prayer.
- The Hampstead Magazine.—The Hunting of Helen, by Gilbert Frankau—Seventy-Mile-An-Hour Letters—Parents of Great Inventions—Who's Who, and Why?—Driving London's Tubes—Best Stories. (1s. 8d. per copy, post free).
- Santa Lucia.—Thought as an Everyday Factor—Nine Waterspouts at Once: What a Sailor Saw—The Great Impersonation, chapters 22-23 (to be continued), by E. Phillips Oppenheim—Romance in a Mattress—A Thirteen-Years' Sleep—Keeping London Clean—Honour Farm: A New Prison Idea. (Is. 8d. per copy, post free)
- Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Naggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs, as well as a Sporting Page. Subscription rates: Inland, 2d. per copy (3d. post free), 8s. per year (inland and abroad).
- Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world day by day, keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. Subscription: 6s. 6d. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.
- The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type). The Impostor—The Romance of Lloyds—The Worlds Queeres Railways—Lost Umbrellas—The Tibetan Exhibition—Wayside Sayings—Concerning Icebergs. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 18s. 6d., post free).
- Lady, partially blind, who has recently returned from Russia, wishes to give Tuition to Children in their own homes. Braille, general English subjects, French, German, Russian. Miss G. MACPHERSON, 37 Woburn Square, W.C.

Games and Apparatus for the Blind

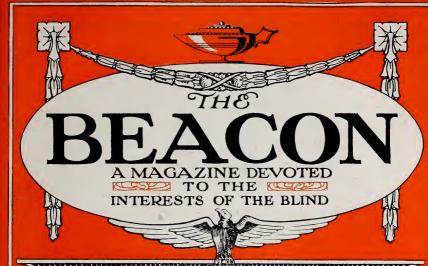
obtainable at the National Institute for the Blind, 224-6-8 Great Portland Street, W.1



GAMES FOR THE BLIND.—Draughts, Russian Fives, Chess, Chess and Draughts Outfit, Cheery Families, Bridge and Whist Cards, Patience Cards.



APPARATUS FOR THE BLIND.—1 Correspondence Tablets; 2 Braillette Board; 3 Pocket Postcard Writing-Frame; 4 Two-lined Pocket-guide for Giant Dots; 5 Four-lined Pocket Frame; 6 Two-lined interlining Pocket Guide; 7 Brass Foot Rule; 8 Tape Measure; 9 Spur-wheel; 10 Braille Watch; 11 Compasses.



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

New Publications

THE prices of the following publications are subject to a discount of seventy-five per cent. for the blind resident in the British Isles, and to a discount of fifty per cent. for the blind resident in the British Colonies and Dependencies.

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THE BEACON A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE

INTERESTS OF THE BLIND

Vol. VI.—No. 72.

DECEMBER, 1922.

PRICE 3D.
38. PER ANNUM, POST FREE

NOTES FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND OF KENT.

—In spite of the general trade depression these workshops report that the sum of £6,234 was realised from sales and chair-caning. Salaries and wages to the amount of £4,124 were paid, and the sum of £187 was received from the National Institute for the Blind.

R OYAL DUNDEE INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.—The year's work of this Institution is reported as satisfactory, notwithstanding adverse trade conditions. Sales of goods to the value of £16,560 were effected. Salaries amounting to £954 were paid in the Industrial Department, whilst £188 was paid to blind teachers. Compensation allowances to blind workers amounted to the sum of £2,889.

M IDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.—
This Association is concerned with the welfare of the blind in the counties of Buckingham, Derby, Hereford, Leicester, Northampton (and Peterborough), Nottingham, Oxford, Rutland, Stafford, Warwick and Worcester. Grants to the value of £982, received from the Ministry of Health, have been distributed among the individual County Associations during the year. The total number of blind persons for whom grants were paid was 5,019.

WEST LONDON WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.—The Annual Report of these workshops is to hand and reports sales to the value of £4,856. A total of £1,572 was paid in wages, and £1,099 in supplemental wages, sick and holiday allowances, and other assistance. The sum of £473 was allocated to this institution during the year by the Greater London Fund for the Blind.

NEWCASTLE, GATESHEAD AND DISTRICT WORKSHOPS FOR THE ADULT BLIND.—In their Eleventh Annual Report these workshops announce a trading loss of £581, attributed to the enforced reduction of prices. The value of sales effected was £6,875. Wages paid to blind workers amounted to £2,298, and grants in augmentation, etc., to £3,505. A grant of £1,300 was made by the National Institute for the Blind, in addition to which the sum of £24 3s. was given for fitting up a room for library purposes.

WE gratefully record that on October 24th Mrs. Carl Rosa kindly placed her box at Covent Garden at the disposal of the National Institute for the Blind. This act of generosity was very greatly appreciated by the six blind folk, who, accompanied by sighted friends, were thus enabled to enjoy an excellent performance of the

opera "Faust."

NOTES FROM BRANCH SECRETARIES

S OUTH YORKSHIRE BRANCH.—The Hull Voluntary Workers' Committee are rendering most excellent service.

Recently Messrs. Milnes and Sparkes paid a welcome visit to Headquarters.

A successful and well organised swimming gala was recently held in Sheffield.

Billiards are becoming increasingly popular in Wombwell and Dirpeld, and a number of entries have been received for the Cup presented by the National Institute.

The Duchess of Portland will be present at a Children's Ball to be given in the

Bawtree district next January.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS

WE have received communications from the following foreign Institutions and Societies for the Blind:—

POVERI CIECHI DI CORSO, NAPOLI. (The Poor Blind of Corso, Naples.)

I NSTITUTO DE CEGOS DO PORTO (Institute for the Blind, Oporto).—
This Institution is the only one of its kind in the North of Portugal. It provides training and employment for blind persons of both sexes. The school curriculum is thoroughly comprehensive, and a large variety of trades is taught in the workshops. There is a museum, containing specimens of plants and models which are of the utmost use to blind students, and there is, further, a library and a Conservatoire of Music.

LA LIGUE BRAILLE (The Braille is to improve the general status of and to destroy existing prejudices concerning the blind. The Society has set itself the task of assisting, by every possible means, blind persons who wish to learn and to develop their faculties. It makes use of the work of blind persons in all branches which are open to this handicapped class of society. It teaches Braille, and is most anxious to form a thoroughly complete Braille library. Those who are desirous of receiving further particulars concerning the League should write, either in Braille to

the President, Mile. Michiel, or in ink to the Secretary. Mile. Vanden Houten, 45, Rue de Loxum, Bruxelles.

Aseparation has been effected between this school and the School for the Deaf. The Principal is Mr. R. S. French, and all communications should be addressed "California School for the Blind."

We have received a back number of an interesting Spanish-American magazine, entitled "Los Ciegos" ("The Blind"). Published monthly at Madrid, this magazine contains some highly interesting articles concerning the blind world. The issue which is before us contains, amongst other matter, the lives of two famous blind men, Democritus and Lamarcke, a story by Guy de Maupassant, entitled "The Blind," a poem, and notices of various blind institutions.

THE VALENTIN HAUY ASSOCIATION

go go

WE learn from the latest issue of the Valentin Haity Review that during 1921 their Braille Library, which numbers 2,250 readers, has lent out 45,576 volumes. Of these 27,165 have been despatched to the provinces, and numerous volumes have been sent abroad. Voluntary copyists have supplied 4,203 volumes. Several blind students, who have been successful in recently-held examinations, have been greatly assisted in their work by the manuals produced by this library.

To its total of 10,000 volumes the Braille Music Library has added 1,500 volumes and pamphlets, and has despatched at least 200 works per week. The printing of the various reviews, such as the Louis Braille, the Revue Braille Musicale, and the Valentin Hairy Review, continues as heretofore.

The Association has placed 39 children in special schools, has arranged for 86 apprenticeships, and has lent out a large number of brushmakers', basket-makers', and chair-caners' tools. It keeps in touch with some 2,000 blind workers. During the year 3,096 travelling tickets or permits for blind persons were obtained.



REVIEWS OF BOOKS

THE CARE OF THE WAR-BLINDED*





HIS book consists of a very minute survey of past and present conditions of the blind. Part I. is devoted to an examination of the blind man's position in social politics. The second part contains a lengthy account of service in connection with the blind—particularly in Germany—up to the year 1914. What has been

accomplished since that year, especially with regard to the blinded soldier, is dealt with exhaustively in Part III. It is no easy task to give a brief outline of a work of this magnitude, but we will here endeavour to reproduce excerpts which should prove of special interest to English readers. From the outset it should be borne in mind that the book is written from the German standpoint, and that a great deal of the matter (although by no means all) applies to that country alone.

In comparison with the State definition of blindness in England, namely, "too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential," it may be of interest to quote the definitions of certain German experts. as enumerated by Dr. Strehl. According to Elschnig, an eye is said to be blind when "it cannot distinguish between day and night," and a person is blind "when both eyes fail to possess this faculty." Fick declares all persons to be blind "who are unable to find their way by means of sight in an unfamiliar neighbourhood.' Axenfeld says: "He who cannot find his way by means of eyesight, and therefore has to be led, is blind." Professor Silex, the great German oculist, has come to the conclusion that it is impossible to formulate a strictly comprehensive definition of blindness (a point of view which is largely held in this country). The German State definition is as follows: - "Blindness is the impossibility of using the eye for the

purpose of recognising objects. So long as a faint residue of sight is extant, this impossibility may be said to be nonexistent."

author proceeds to examine minutely various degrees of blindness, solely with reference to those blinded in the war. Discussing the meaning of the term "social politics," and declaring that in its narrower sense its object is to assist those whose capacity for work is employed in the service of others, and to regulate conditions of labour, Dr. Strehl comes to the conclusion that blind workers may be said to belong to this category, perhaps even to a greater extent than normal workers. The same handicap, which engenders similar conditions of living, obliges blind persons, free from all State interests, to turn to certain special careers. Even if, by dint of energy and intelligence, an individual is able to retain his former occupation, in principle majority of persons who have become blind early or late in life are obliged to turn to occupations usually practised by Therefore as members of the blind. "similar professions" the blind may justly be considered to form a part of the social politics of the country.

To-day it is considered a matter of course that the State should come to the aid of those who are too weak to hold their own in economic competition. In bygone days other views were held. The blind were classed with the poor, on whom alms were bestowed. In the early days of Christianity the rich were obliged to support the poor; this duty was performed through the medium of the Church, and theirs became a two-fold offering—a gift to God, and a gift to His poor. "The

^{*} Die Kriegsblindenfürsorge Ein Ausschnitt aus der Sozialpolitik, von Dr. Carl Strehl. Published by Julius Springer, 23, Linkstrasse, Berlin, W.9.

highest perfection of Christianity," says Dr. Strehl, "is to be found in the 3rd century, when absolute renunciation of property was preached." The Church Fathers even went so far as to wish that all men should possess equal riches by means of the bestowal of alms. To employ all superfluity for the alleviation of suffering-from this thought, engendered at this time, was born the true ministration of the poor. Gradually there arose a sense of discrimination between the poor who were able to work and those who were incapable of so doing. The latter must needs be supported by the community, and the principle that each individual is primarily forced to care for himself then comes to the fore. It becomes a sin to live by the work of another. Begging, until then a recognised means of livelihood, is stated to be inconsistent with the tenets of Christianity. The duty of Charity is now declared to consist, not in the bestowal of alms, but in protection against the necessity of taking alms-a rule which presupposes the will and the duty to work of individual. Private voluntary charity is exchanged for public, compulsory charity organisations. Down to the present day, however, both Church and private charity organisations exist side by side with State organisations—a proof that realisation of social obligations exists in men's hearts apart from the impetus of State compulsion. Dr. Strehl then reverts to the tenet that provision for the poor should consist in preventive and not in repressive measures. This rule should also apply to the blind. Does the State recognise the right of each child to receive education at public cost? Then, if ordinary schools do not suffice, the State must step in and provide special schools. Besides this, the blind adult has a right to demand both training and work. the State wishes to make the blind man a useful member of society, then the State must provide special ways and means of fulfilling this object. Each individualsighted or blind—has a right to a place in Society, where his powers may develop, where he has a right to live, and the obligation to work.

The author proceeds to discuss the question as to whether the blinded soldier has a right to a pension which shall ensure him a care-free existence. Undoubtedly, he argues, he has that right, but in the interests of domestic economy and of the individual himself the incentives of independence and of responsibility should be maintained. No charity organisations, no almsgiving in the historic sense, but preventive care, which shall place him in a position in which he may make full use of his capability of working for the common good!

In Part II. Dr. Strehl gives a survey of the care of the blind from the very earliest times. In the Dark Ages any bodily infirmity was considered a punishment sent down by the Almighty. If persons thus afflicted chanced to possess praiseworthy attributes of heart and mind, such attributes were regarded as miraculous. Even in the antique world the blind were looked upon with awed sympathy, together with persons who had been struck by lightning or attacked by madness. Frequently regarded as holy persons, to whom the gift of prophecy was attributed, they were equally often thought to have been punished by God, and were therefore persons to be avoided. In the Talmud. even, they are alluded to with awe. At all times they were accorded pity and sympathy rather than regard or esteem. With the dawn of the Christian era, especially generous alms were accorded them at the church gates. Here and there were a few pious institutions which accorded them permanent assistance, where they were regarded and treated as poor persons. In the Middle Ages the poor were accorded a certain measure of esteem, and a social position which was determined by the Church.

The first recorded Institution for the Blind was that of St. Lymnee at Syr, Syria, in the 5th century. The first accredited European Institution for the Blind was that of Louis IX., at Paris, in 1260. The story goes that this institution was founded for the care of 300 soldiers who were blinded in the Crusades. As a matter of fact, it was built for the provision of the blind poor of Paris. In 1350 King John erected a similar establishment, and in 1331 the Elsing Hospital was founded in London. These were in no sense educational institutions, but homes in which the blind lived, either well

or poorly, according to the means of the

institution in question.

A change was effected in the 18th century, when, incited by the deplorable condition of the blind in Paris, Valentin Haüy sowed the seeds of our modern care of the blind. In 1765 J. W. Klein called into life the Blind Institution in Vienna. Not until the beginning of the 19th century did Germany follow suit. In 1806 was founded the Berlin Institution, which was for a long time under the care of Dr. Zeune, who became a well-known personality in the world of the blind.

In their attempt to educate and train the blind these pioneers fought against manifold difficulties. The general public was sceptical of their undertakings, the available funds were totally inadequate to provide education for teachable blind children to say nothing of the large number who had become blind later in life. One important fact was, however, established, namely, proof of the possibility of educating blind persons. Gradually thinking persons acquired the conviction that, in spite of their numerous shortcomings, institutions impregnated with this idea were of the greatest possible help to the blind. One great difficulty lay in the fact that when blind persons had left the institutions, having completed their training, their path was beset by unlooked for obstructions, and lack of work, lack of material, lack of understanding-uncongenial surroundings, frequently led them to return to their old vagrant habits. This difficulty soon became obvious to specialists such as Klein and Zeune, and it became manifest to them that the State would be obliged to step in and secure what they recognised even then as "a consummation devoutly to be wished "a consummation which may be summed up in this phrase: - "The happiness of the blind, as indeed that of the whole of humanity, consists in being independent."

Towards the end of the 19th century we see this ideal recognised as never before. Paris, Berlin and Vienna were the principal European cities to inaugurate new institutions and to concentrate more than ever before on the problem of the care of the blind. Paris influenced England, Vienna the south of Germany, and Berlin the north of Germany. The author pro-

ceeds to enumerate the various institutions which have arisen all over Germany and the measures which came to be taken to protect this handicapped class of society. At present there are in Germany 35 training institutions, 22 preparatory schools, 27 advanced schools and 36 finishing schools, besides 36 workshops and salesrooms, 34 homes, and nine homes of rest for the blind. Besides several private libraries there is a central library for the blind in Leipzig and one in Hamburg. Further, there exist in Berlin societies such as the "Moon Society," and the "Society for Promoting the Common Interests of the Blind," as well as others. In 1877 these were incorporated by the State into the "Municipal Institution for the Blind." A similar institution exists in the Rhine provinces and there are others throughout the country. By means of a monthly review, Der Blindenfreund (Friend of the Blind), the German blind and their friends are kept in touch with the manifold activities which concern their lot.

Appended to Dr. Strehl's book is a detailed tabular statement concerning the various German institutions, with a brief account of the activities of each. table should form a valuable guide for those who seek detailed information concerning the Blind Institutions of Ger-Statistics compiled from the many. census of the German population taken in 1900 show that there were then 34,334 blind persons in the German Empire, 21,614, or 21,571 (according to two separate computations) being accounted for in Prussia alone. The figures which are cited for 1910 apply only to Prussia, where 20,953 blind persons were accounted for in

that year.

In concluding our review of this portion of Dr. Strehl's book, it should be recorded that hitherto the German State has effected comparatively little with regard to the care of the blind worker, and that the main provision for the blind has been undertaken by private organisation.

As mentioned above, Part III., which covers by far the greater portion of the book, is devoted to a lengthy discussion of the problem of the blinded soldier. As this forms a special phase of work for the blind, we propose to deal with it in a subsequent issue.

(To be continued).



LL those who have the cause of the blind at heart, all those who recognise the greatness of their lost leader, should read "The Life of Sir Arthur Pearson," written by Mr. Sidney Dark, and published by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton. The author of this biography was acquainted with Sir Arthur for over twenty years,

and was a member of the *Daily Express* staff for half that period of time. Well qualified for his task, therefore, he has approached it with great and sympathetic understanding, and there is little doubt that the volume will be widely read by an

appreciative public.

In his opening chapter Mr. Dark goes to the heart of the matter in describing Sir Arthur's "zest for life" as his supreme and abiding characteristic—a characteristic which was apparent even to those who knew him but slightly, and one moreover, which made him par excellence, a leader of the blind. We quote the first paragraph of this biography in full, as it affords a rare insight into his character:—

"Arthur Pearson was born with an amazing zest for life. Whatsoever his hand found to do he was compelled by his character to do with all his might. He was not a strikingly original man, but he was a man of the most abounding energy. He was not much concerned with the subtleties of life, but he was immensely interested with living. He accepted conditions as they were, faced new circumstances as they occurred, without bothering at all from what causes the conditions had arisen, or what was the reason that had brought the circumstances about-Each new condition and each fresh set of circumstances were instinctively regarded by him as the opportunity for fresh experience, as the incitement to novel thrills, as another region to be explored. For such a man, difficulties were positively attractive, and the worst misfortune could have no terror."

Much concerning Sir Arthur's life is well-known to our readers, and we will endeavour as far as possible to touch upon the less widely-known points, many of which throw interesting lights and sidelights upon what is already common knowledge.

In his account of Arthur Pearson's youth, Mr. Dark tells us that as a boy he was so full of alert curiosity that, whilst at Winchester, he was christened "the Pigeon," by reason of his habit of throwing up his head and almost pecking at every new thing that came his way His school career was cut short at the age of 16, and we are told that for some time after he studied with his father, and zealously played cricket, hockey and lawn-At this time, too, Arthur Pearson learned to ride a high bicycle"! His success in obtaining a situation in the office of Tit-Bits by answering a series of devastating questions has already been recorded in these pages, and it may be of interest to our readers to hear some samples of these questions, as follows:-

At what date does *Modern* History commence? When was the commencement of the legal year in England altered to the 1st of January?

What was the origin of the Highland "kilt"?

What is the age of the earth?

What was the origin of "as tight as a lord "? Has the oxygen in our atmosphere always been

in the same proportion as at present?

Do the ladies in attendance upon the Queen continue to hold their appointments notwithstanding a change of ministry?

What is the average intensity of cold in the Arctic

What is said to be the origin of regimental scarlet facings?

When were trade-marks first used?

What is the origin of the coronet on the mitre of English archbishops?"

How many acres do the forests of Europe cover?

In all 130 questions were propounded, and he answered 86 correctly. Eighteen of the remaining answers were very good,

^{*} The Life of Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt., G.B.E., Newspaper Proprietor and Founder of St. Dunstan's Hostel for Sailors and Soldiers Blinded in the Great War, 1914-1918. By Sidney Dark. Published by Messrs Hodder and Stoughton. Price 10s, 64

and only three were absolutely incorrect. Thus began Arthur Pearson's journalistic career.

He remained on the staff of *Tit-Bits* for nearly five years, spending much of his leisure time in free-lance work for other publications. A curious record of this work from January 1st to June 30th, 1889, runs as follows:—

10110 00 10110 110							
Half-Year, Jan	uary	1st to	June	30th,	1889	Э.	
Articles written					84		
Articles dispatched					251		
Articles accepted						58	
Articles printed					3	36	
					£	s.	d.
Money received					44	0	0
Money owing					50	7	0
Total						7	0
Average price per a					1	12	6
Average number of				one			
accepted					4	12	
21 articles out, of which I know nothing,							
so it may be a				them			
are taken, whi		nakes			8	2	6
Total earned is					102	9	6
Stamps					2	9	6

At the end of June, 1890, accompanied by the late Mr. Peter Keary and Mr. Ernest Kessell, he left Newnes' firm. Three weeks afterwards *Pearson's Weekly* saw the light of day. In its first number most of the articles were written by Arthur Pearson himself. Strangely enough one of these articles deals with the subject of Blindness, its opening sentence running as follows:—"Appalling as the deprivation of sight may be, it is not without some remarkable compensations."

£100 net gain.

The record of prize competitions and other devices which were employed to increase the circulation of the paper forms most amusing reading. For example, a prize was offered to the person with the longest name, and this was won by Miss Marie George Ethel Victoria Eve Eugenie Beatrice Cleopatra Cordelia Warren. Early in 1891 a prize was offered for competition by Smiths only; this was no doubt the origin of a periodical called Smith's Weekly, one of the many publications of the Pearson firm. But perhaps the best advertisement of all was the following, which was evolved during the first epidemic of influenza:—"One morning in the train a doctor told Arthur Pearson that the best preventative for influenza was 'some stuff made from the eucalyptus tree.' This gave Pearson a great idea.

He sent out and bought all the eucalyptus oil he could put his hands on, and a staff of 50 commissionaires was employed squirting the oil through scent sprays on to the copies of *Pearson's Weekly* as they came off the printing machines"! It was not, however, until his Missing Word Competition was launched that the paper was assured of success, and in spite of the fact that the Courts decided that such "lotteries" were illegal, a large part of the circulation gained by these means was retained. Arthur Pearson's further enterprises in the newspaper world are wellknown to our readers. By 1897, when 31 years of age, he felt justified in retiring at least partially from business and in devoting himself to the country life and pursuits which he loved. He bought Frensham Place, Farnham, where he built a large riding school, cultivated swimming, boating and dancing, and laid out a private golf course. His biographer alludes to this period as the entr'acte of his career. He tells us that at this time he was always interested in something, but rarely for very long, a fact which was apparent in that "he passed from one favourite game to another." His great love of children was well known to us all, and his philanthropic energies in this direction, mainly devoted to the Fresh Air Fund, to which Mr. Dark gives a chapter of his book, need no further comment here. He also took a very keen interest in the Boy Scout movement.

He was not content to enjoy his country leisure for long. For some years past he had considered the desirability of producing a daily newspaper, and it was when the Daily Mail had been running for four years and had a circulation of nearly a million copies, that he started the Daily Express. This was at first an eightpage paper, which possessed the distinctive feature, which it still retains, of printing the principal news on the outside page. Pearson was anxious to produce a paper which could be read and understood by the man in the street. No foreign words were allowed to be used without their English equivalents, and the paper aimed at being neither "high-brow" nor dull. "We will give you," it announced, "the comedy of life, putting its minor tragedies in the background." At the time he

had no very keen interest in politics, and the Daily Express in its early days was never primarily a political organ. growing deeply interested in the Protectionist movement, he threw himself with characteristic energy and enthusiasm into the campaign, became chairman of the Tariff Reform League, and earned for himself Mr. Chamberlain's epithet of "the greatest hustler I have ever known." November, 1904, a political sensation was caused by the announcement that Arthur Pearson had bought the Standard and the Evening Standard. The Standard proved to be his first and only failure, and after six years' struggle he sold it and the Evening Standard to Mr. Davison Dalziel.

During these years his eyesight had been growing from bad to worse. In 1908 he was successfully operated on for glaucoma, but after the operation he was never again able to see well enough either to read or to write. A walking tour in Switzerland was undertaken in 1910, and the detailed diary which he kept on this occasion "illustrates," as Mr. Dark puts it, "the ache to put on paper perhaps the last things that the writer's eyes would ever see." Even then he was seeing as through a glass darkly. The following is a short excerpt from this diary:—

BELLAGIO

"The scenery was very beautiful, first lookings over Como, then Lecco branches of the lake. Passed a very picturesque old church with quaint old tower, pierced with many different-shaped windows, grassy steps leading up to it bordered on each side with little chapels containing decayed frescoes which must once have been good. Adjoining the church a building, perhaps 20 feet by 12, containing a hundred or so pigeon-holes, in each of which was a skull, and numerous other cupboards containing some thighbones, arm bones, back bones, and other bones of various kinds; open windows guarded with grills gave the opportunity of seeing this very repulsive collection."

In 1912 Pearson sold his interest in the Daily Express. The next year he went with Lady Pearson to Vienna, where he consulted the famous oculist, Professor Fuchs. When he had heard the professor's verdict, and knew that in a short while he would be completely blind, he said to his wife: "I will never be a blind man. I am going to be the blind man." He had, his biographer tells us, thought it all out for himself. "Partial blindness

had given him an insight into the possibilities of life without eyes, and he had already arrived at the faith which he put into words some years afterwards:—

"To be blind may mean to be helpless, incompetent, perpetually resigned to a life of dull ineptitude. To be blind may mean to carry on one's life almost as before, to put up with minor inconvenience in conquering problems as they present themselves. Lots of people see without perceiving, blind people learn to perceive without seeing."

And so Arthur Pearson played the game and "won through," because when darkness fell he at once turned his thoughts to his fellow-sufferers. His work for the civilian blind and for the blinded soldiers and sailors will cause his memory to be placed with those "whose name liveth for evermore."

MR. CLYNES

M. J. R. CLYNES, who led the Parliamentary Labour Party last session, is an Oldham man and has represented the Platting division of Manchester in the House of Commons since 1906. He is 53. The son of an Oldham Corporation labourer, he began work in a cotton mill when he was 10, but it was not until he was 17, when he was employed to read newspapers to three blind old men, that he became ambitious to achieve a prominent position in the world.—" Daily Mail."

The National Institute for the Blind, in Great Portland Street, has for sale a variety of games (chess, draughts, dominoes, card-games and others) as well as apparatus for the use of the blind. Besides the usual range of books, it has also for sale a limited number of Christmas stories. Braille and Moon calendars are obtainable, also Christmas Cards supplied with suitable greetings in either of these two forms of type. Anyone who wishes to do so, may choose his or her own brief Christmas message to be inscribed on these cards.

THE Departmental Committee on the Causes and Prevention of Blindness (Ministry of Health) have issued their Final Report, which we propose to review at some length in our next issue.

SUNSHINE HOUSE

O^N Monday, 13th November, 1922, the Daily Press gave publicity to the fact that Mrs. Salmon, of Liverpool, had committed suicide, owing to depression caused by the fact that her baby, born in September last, was blind.

The National Institute for the Blind immediately communicated with their local Secretary, Mr. Lowry, who at once got into touch with the baby's father and ob-

tained particulars, expressing sympathy with him and offering help. Upon receiving Mr. Lowry's report the Standing Committee of the Institute immediately sanctioned the admission of the baby to "Sunshine House," as an emergency case, and the Matron offered to travel to Liverpool to fetch the baby. On Friday, the 17th instant—four days after the tragedy had happened—the baby was safely installed in "Sunshine House."



[Photo by Messrs. Harper & Taylor, Liverpool]

"Sunshine House," Oxford Road, Birkdale, Southport
The New Home for Blind Babies, just acquired by the National Institute
for the Blind. The first Home is at Chorley Wood, Herts.

A TRIP TO FINLAND AND SWEDEN

The Fourteenth Esperanto Congress and After

By W. PERCY MERRICK



N Thursday, August 3rd, my wife and I left Hull on the "Arcturus" with some fifty other Esperantists, including Mr. John Merchant, President, and Mr. Warden, Ex-President, of the British Esperanto Association. Until Saturday the sea was smooth, and we all ate heartily, and chatted and joked in holiday mood. The

ship's company were all Finns, and none of them spoke a language we could understand, except the captain and purser, who spoke English well. The waitresses looked most demure, with their hair strained back from the forehead in Puritan fashion. Despite the efforts of the more frivolous members of the party to make them laugh, the only time they were known to do so was on Sunday evening, when, one of the tables having been vacated by the diners, a lurch of the ship shot all the crockery on to the floor in a heap of ruins; here, indeed, was a real joke!

The meals were served in the Finnish manner: a substantial breakfast at nine, lunch at twelve, and dinner at six, which began with hors d'œuvres, set out on a special table, from which we took our choice before sitting down to table. There was usually a quantity of pickled fish, cold ham, tongue, sausage, salads, butter, cheese and several kinds of bread, one of the nicest being the "hardbread"—half rusk, half biscuit-of which all Scandinavians seem very proud. The hot meat and, at dinner, fruit or a large portion of ice, were served at table. Throughout our stay in Finland we could never quite solve the problem as to how much of the hors d'œuvres we ought to appropriate in order to leave the exact amount of accommodation for the dishes that were to follow.

On Friday evening we arrived at the Kiel Canal, and during the night were

joined by some German and other Esperantists, among whom were several blind people: Dr. Bano from Budapest, and Miss Polandova from Prague. Mr. Stejskal, of Prague, and Mr. Hendricx, of Ghent, both energetic helpers of the blind, saw to their safety and comfort, and we much enjoyed our long talks with them.

Sunday was "a day of rest, but not of gladness," and after breakfast most of us retired to our cabins, the few who did not succumb feeling very proud of themselves. By lunch time some were convalescent, but the Esperanto service, arranged with such great care the day before, did not take place, as both of the clergymen and most of the congregation had more pressing engagements. Monday morning we were all alive again, and enjoyed a sunny entry into the beautiful bay of Helsingfors, whose many islands, and the town with its fine buildings and churches, lay spread out before us. A large crowd of Esperantists received us with flags and cries of welcome, and guided us to our hotels as soon as we had made a purely formal procession through the Customs Offices.

Most of the blind congressists were entertained for the whole time gratis at the blind school, a large stone building with wide corridors and spacious rooms, about a mile from the centre of the town. Although it was holiday time many of the teachers had returned to look after their blind guests. I spent as much time there as possible, for besides the official meetings of the blind sub-congress there were several social evenings with much good music and recitation. All the guests seemed thoroughly happy. They attended the opening and closing meetings of the Congress, the concerts, the theatre, the national costume ball, etc. Robert Bergh, a quiet, good-humoured blind man, was our President; much

interesting information on blind matters was reported, and many subjects ardently discussed. Our friend, Miss Melchior, of Denmark, told us how she had started what is perhaps the first home for blind babies in Europe, which is now an important branch of the institution in which she lives and works. One morning Dr. Privat came and spoke charmingly on Dr. Zamenhof, his interest in the blind, and his work as an oculist.

The Finns have the reputation of being a silent race. At first they seemed somewhat shy, but as the week wore on they became increasingly anxious to talk to their foreign visitors. One felt everywhere, in the streets, in the "akceptejo," and in the blind school, that they are a seriously-minded folk, somewhat slow in thought and very cautious in adding up bills, but thoroughly trustworthy and keenly anxious to promote universal fellowship. They seem to be idealists with a strong love of poetry; this was attributed by one amongst them to the rhythmic nature of their language, but I venture to think that it forms an essential part of their character. Their voices, like those of the Swedes, are very clear, and the tone of their famous mixed choir, "Suomen Laulu," which, sung unaccompanied in the concert room and in the theatre, was as pure and thrilling as that of the best choirs of the north of England, without the least suspicion of harshness. It was with real delight that I heard an old grey-bearded bard in the theatre chant some runes of the great epic. "Kalevala," to a beautiful old—perhaps pre-historic—modal melody. Here, too, we heard much Finnish music, saw national dances, and enjoyed a Finnish play well acted in Esperanto.

Helsingfors is essentially a modern town with good hotels and restaurants, electric light, efficient tram and telephone services, and many fine modern buildings. There are several nice promenades and parks where bands play in the evenings, and the streets are wide, though generally paved with round cobbles which tire the feet and make the traffic too audible. The market is open every day till noon, but, as far as we could see, the shops contained little that could not be bought in other towns in Europe, except-

ing, perhaps, some fine cut glass, said to be made in Finland. The buildings in which our meetings were held were spacious, and the "akceptejo" (headquarters) where the Congress had its post office and bank, its conversation rooms and books and light refreshments for sale, was a general meeting place for Esperantists of all nations.

The arrangements for the comfort and entertainment of the members of the Con-

gress were perfect in every detail.

On Wednesday, August 16th, some sixty of us started for a tour through Finland. We took sleeping cars to Viborg, a much older town than Helsingfors, where we spent most of Thursday. Here the river, some fifteen or twenty yards wide, falls over a rocky bed with much noise and foam, and brings down hundreds of logs thrown into it for use in paper mills below. Often these logs stand on end and look like men struggling in the water. On Friday night we took steamer to Savonlinna, which contains a very fine old ruined castle, now carefully preserved, from the towers of which is to be obtained a splendid view of the lakes and surrounding country. These lakes are full of islands of all sizes and covered with pines and a few silver birches intermingled with rocks. We stayed at Punkaharju during the week-end. This, so far as I could discover. is the only town which does not possess two distinct names—Finnish and Swedish. It is a long narrow peninsula, with lakes on either sides, of which glimpses were to be seen between the closely growing straight pines. An Esperantist doctor at a huge sanatorium for consumptives invited us all to coffee on Sunday afternoon, and showed us the institution, which seems quite up-to-date. We returned to Helsingfors by train on Monday night, after having had a most delightful trip, the pleasure of which was greatly enhanced by the presence of several Finnish Esperantists who came with us as guides and translators.

On Wednesday morning, August 23rd, we left Helsingfors in the "Birger Jarl" for Stockholm. All day long we passed innumerable islands, much like those we had seen in the lakes. On board were some Dutch Esperantists, with whom we

enjoyed a pleasant chat.

On landing at Stockholm next morning we were met by an Englishman, who took us in a taxi to the station for Saltsjöbaden, where we stayed four days with Mr. Thulin, at his beautiful villa. This gentleman has been blind for many years, and devotes his time and energy to the collection of money for the higher education of the blind in Sweden. The "Bokfond," which he founded some years ago, provides science and languages text books in Braille and awards scholarships to promising blind students. jöbaden is a beautiful place on the coast of the Baltic, dotted with villas; here a great many inhabitants of Stockholm

spend the summer months.

On Monday, 28th, Mr. and Mrs. Thulin took us by motor to Osmo, which we reached about midday, after a very pleasant drive through woods and open country. Mr. and Mrs. Thilander were waiting in their garden with a Swedish flag flying in our honour. Their little country house, like so many in Sweden, is painted red. It stands in a garden with grass and abundant fruit trees, and at the back is a wood, which lends it a picturesque appearance. Osmo, which is near the port of Nynashamn, is a large and straggling parish, with a fine church dating from the fifteenth century, a railway station, electric light, and telephone. The surroundings are very pretty, with undulating ground, woods, pastures, and a few cornfields.

And now came the most memorable and delightful part of our holiday, of which we had so far enjoyed every moment. had seen the Thilanders before they were married, in Cambridge, 1907, and knew that Mr. Thilander was blind, somewhat of a cripple, and so deaf that no one but his wife could speak to him intelligibly through his speaking tube. Mrs. Thilander, too, is blind. In spite of this, it is a revelation to be with them. They are the most devoted, the kindliest and the merriest couple I have ever met. Their lives are spent in working for the blind; his in editing magazines and stereotyping Braille books; hers in proof-reading and seeing to household affairs. work brings them an enormous amount of correspondence, in itself more than enough to occupy the working hours of an ordinary mortal. Mr. Thilander is a perfect mine of information on all matters relating to the blind of all countries, and yet has room in his memory for items of local history and tradition; he can talk interestingly on almost any subject. He speaks Esperanto and English with correct intonation, although he can never have heard their sounds perfectly, having lost his hearing when quite young. and his wife subscribe to magazines in languages. Mr. various Thilander thoroughly understands the mechanism of the machines he uses, and has devised many improvements in Braille stereotyping machines, and one of great importance to the "Picht" typewriter, which is now being adopted by the makers. He has brought his Braille printing to a fine state of perfection.

We never had a dull moment during our week with them. When they were busy with work that had to be done to time, we rambled in the woods, to the little lake or to the sea, and enjoyed the sights and sounds of the countryside. In the evenings I sometimes played chess with Mr. Thilander, while his wife, an excellent musician, played and sang to us.

They call their little house "Solkojan" (Sunny Cottage), but I would translate it 'the happiest home in the world.' Whilst staying there it was soon possible to forget their disabilities and to cease wondering at the things they could accomplish. Their welcome was so hearty that it was quite a wrench to leave them; one felt that an important and interesting part of one's

life had passed away.

At Stockholm we spent two busy days. On Tuesday we visited Skansen the great open-air national museum, in the company of Miss Josefson, an Esperantist friend of the Thilanders. The old furniture and household implements in the museum interested me greatly.

The second day we visited Tomteboda, the chief blind school in Sweden, where Director Ostrand gave us a rapid but most interesting sketch of the history of the blind in Sweden, and escorted us round the institution. We were indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Warrilow for this visit.

We reached Copenhagen on the morning of Thursday, September 7th, and were met by Mrs. Blicher, whom we had seen

at the Congress. She at once took us to a good hotel, and then guided us to three blind institutions, where we found a few Esperantists and one or two pupils who In the school there are read English. some interesting models, especially one of the building itself. Music is taught to the blind to a greater extent here than in Sweden. The next day Mrs. Blicher took us to see the city itself; the town hall, a very fine modern building; the Ethnological Museum, containing pre-historic implements and much beautiful furniture; the Thorvaldsen Museum, wherein are preserved most of the works of that famous Danish sculptor who, in his later years, collected and presented them to the nation. In the evening she took us to her comfortable flat, gave us a real Danish supper, and showed us many interesting and rare Esperanto books which she and her husband had collected, Mr. Ommerbo, our Danish blind consul, was also present. Altogether our stay in Copenhagen was deeply interesting.

We returned home through Germany believing we had come to the end of the Esperanto part of our holiday. Having an hour to wait at Hamburg on Saturday evening, I had just remarked that it seemed strange not to have Esperantists to talk to, when a young couple came up to us on the platform. They were Mr. and Mrs. Bünemann, who had come an hour's journey by rail and on foot to see if they could help us in any way. We were delighted to meet them, and it seemed quite a pity for their sakes that we did not need help! This will show what trouble Esperantists take to help one another, and how entirely they make their fellow Esperantists feel at home in a strange land.

At Frankfort we stayed six days with an octogenarian friend whose years and cares sit lightly upon him. So genial and kindly was he that one would never have suspected that he had been ruined by the depreciation of the German exchange, and that he was obliged to deny himself what we should consider the necessaries of life. He took us to the blind school, an old building, where we found among the teachers and pupils some fifteen Esperantists, all eager to hear about the Congress

and about the "kara redaktoro" of "Esperanta Ligilo," Herr Thilander. We were the first to bring them the news that the next Congress is to take place at Nuremberg. Here we were told of a blind gentleman who has a wonderful dog as a guide; when it comes to a busy crossing this dog lies down till the street is clear enough to cross. These dogs are trained at the Sanitätshunden Verein, Oldenburg.

At the blind Sub-Congress I had heard that in many blind schools in Germany all the pupils are taught handwriting, but at Frankfort only the partially blind are taught this useful accomplishment.

We returned home by the Hook of Holland, and so ended our most delightful holiday. Long live Esperanto!

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THE After-Care Department of the National Institute for the Blind report that during the month of October 111 fresh cases came under their care (65 men and 46 women). Gifts to the number of 45 were provided at a cost of £115 14s. The number of visits paid was 46. The amount expended in training fees was £349 0s. 7d., in relief £473 18s. 5d., and in relief administered by Branches, £30 19s. 6d.

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To sit still and contemplate—to be pleased by the great deeds of men without envy, to be everything in sympathy, and yet content to remain where and what you are—is not this to know both wisdom and virtue, and to dwell with happiness?—

Stevenson.

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At the Ford works "no one applying for work is refused on account of physical condition. . We have always with us the maimed and the halt.

The blind man or cripple can, in the particular place to which he is assigned, perform just as much work and receive exactly the same pay as a wholly ablebodied man would."

From "My Life and Work," by Henry Ford and Samuel Crowther.





PPALLING as the deprivation of sight may be, it is not without some remarkable compensations. Other faculties, both of intellect and of sense, often seem to gain by it; and Dufau, a French writer, affirms that the blind seldom become imbecile, and still less frequently insane. Profound thinkers practically admit that vision

interferes somewhat with deep cogitation. Malebranche, when he wished to think used to close his window intensely, shutters in the daytime, excluding every ray of light; and, for a like reason, Democritus is said to have put out his eyes in order that he might philosophise the better. Speaking on this point, M. Dufau says: "When we wish to increase our power of attention we shut our eyes, thus assuming artificial blindness." Diderot used often to talk with his eyes closed, and at such times became sublimely eloquent. There was lately living in the county of York a gentleman of fortune who, though totally blind, was an expert archer, "so expert," says our informant, "that out of twenty shots with the long bow he was far my superior. His sense of hearing was so keen that when a boy behind the target rang a bell, the blind archer knew precisely how to aim the shaft."

The tenacity of the memory of the blind is well known. This characteristic faculty is, according to Father Charlevoix, turned to good account in Japan, where the public records of the Empire are committed to memory by chosen blind men.

Men of genius have sometimes thrown off some of the worst disabilities of blindness. Genius ever devises ways and means of its own. It has a thousand little contrivances unknown to the ordinary student, who is content enough to travel along the beaten road which others have fashioned

for him. Saunderson's (the blind mathematician) whole machinery for computing was a small piece of deal, divided by lines into a certain number of squares, and pierced at certain angles with holes large enough to admit a metal pin. With this simple board and a box of pins he made all his calculations; yet, in 1711, he was the friend of Sir Isaac Newton, and by his interest was elected Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge. Thus, also, it was with Huber, the blind philosopher of Geneva. His discoveries in the honeved labours of bees have equalled, if not surpassed, those of any other student of nature. It remained for Huber not only to corroborate truths which others had partially discovered, but also to detect and describe minute particulars which had escaped even the acute observation of It is true that others Swammerdam. supplied him with eyes, but he furnished them with thought and intellect—he saw with their eyes. Thus, he clearly proved that there are two distinct sets of bees in every hive, honey gatherers and the wax makers and nurses; that the larvæ of working bees can, by a course of diet, be changed to queens. Thus, also, he accurately described the sanguinary conflicts of rival queens, the recognition of old companions or of royalty by use of the antennæ; thus he explained the busy hum and unceasing vibration of wing over going on in the hive as being necessary for due ventilation. One of the last incidents of the old man's life that seemed to rouse and interest him, was the arrival of a present of stingless bees from their discoverer, Captain B. Hall.

It is the union of diligence and genius which has made so many a blind man famous among his brethren with eyes; ot only the head to conceive, but the hand

^{*}An article contributed to the first number of "Pearson's Weekly" and re-printed in Mr. Sidney Dark's Biography of Sir Arthur Pearson.

to carry out and achieve, in its own way, and plan of wisdom and of beauty. Thus, Metcalf, the blind guide and engineer, constructed roads through the wilds of Derbyshire! Thus, Davidson ventilated the deepest coal-mines, and lectured on the structure of the eye; as did Dr. Moyes on chemistry and optics! Thus, Blacklock, poet and musician, master of four languages, besides his own, wrote both prose and poetry with elegance and ease; thus, nearer to our own time, Holman, the traveller, has made himself a name far beyond the shores of Great Britain. We know not what Saundersons or Hubers the present generation is to see. One name, equally great, in another path of fame it already has: Prescott, the historian of Ferdinand and Isabella, Mexico, and Peru, etc., who, though not blind, has a defect of the eyes which prevents him from reading and writing, but whose literary labours have, nevertheless, delighted and instructed thousands, both

in the Old and New World. Coleridge remarks that "a diseased state of an organ of sense will perpetually tamper with the understanding, and, perhaps, at last, overthrow it." But when one organ is obliterated, the mind applies some other to a double use. Some ten years back, at Sowerby, I met a men perfectly blind from infancy. His chief amusement was fishing on the wild, uneven banks of the Eden, and up the difficult mountain streams. His friend, also stone blind, knew every gate and stile of the district. John Gough, of Kendal, blind, is not only a mathematician, but an infallible botanist and zoologist, correcting mistakes of keen sportsmen as to birds and vermin. His face is all one eye. The eyes of Moyes, although he was totally blind, were not insensible to intense light. Colours were not distinguished by him, but felt. Red was disagreeable; he said it was "like the grating of a saw," while green was very pleasant, and similar to "a smooth surface" when touched. In some instances blindness seems to have gifted the sufferer with new powers. A Dr. Guyse lost his sight in the pulpit, w' 'e he was at prayer, before the sermon, but, nevertheless, managed to preach as usual. An old lady of the congregation, hearing him deplore his loss, thus strove to comfort him: "God be praised," said

she, "that your sight is gone. I never heard your reverence preach so powerful a

sermon in my life." The detection of colour by the touch of the blind is a disputed point. Several anecdotes are told of blind persons who had the power of discriminating colours by the touch; but, if the testimony of a large body of blind children can be relied on, the detection of colour is utterly bevond their reach. Saunderson's power of detecting by his finger or tongue a counterfeit coin which had deceived the eye of a connoisseur, is a totally different ques-We are hardly aware how much of our dexterity in the use of the eye arises from incessant practice. Those who have been relieved of blindness at an advanced, or even an early period of life, have often been found to recur to the old and more familiar sense of touch in preference to sight, especially during the first few months after receiving their sight. Coleridge mentions a most remarkable instance of a blind man at Hanover who possesses so keen a touch as to be able to read with his fingers books of ordinary print, if printed—as most German books are—on coarse paper.

A BLIND M.P.

AN interesting result of the recent election is that at East Aberdeenshire, for which constituency Mr. Frederick Martin, a blinded ex-officer, has been returned as an Independent Liberal member.

"SCHOOL" AND "COMRADES"

THE two Braille magazines, "School" and "Comrades," will in future be conducted by voluntary editors. Mr. E. Evans, a teacher at Linden Lodge School for the Blind, has very kindly undertaken the task of editing "School," whilst the editorship of "Comrades" will be in the able hands of Miss E. Morley, headmistress of Queen Alexandra Kindergarten School for the Blind, Harborne, Birmingham.

EVERY heart that has beat strong and cheerfully has left a hopeful impulse behind it in the world and bettered the tradition of mankind.—R. L. Stevenson.

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A Reading of "What Every Woman Knows," by Sir J. M. Barrie, on Tuesday, January 16th, 1923, at 8 p.m., by Ernest

Allen, Esq., and Party.

A Reading of "Abraham Lincoln," by John Drinkwater, on Tuesday, February 13th, at 7.30 p.m., by Bernard P. Bouquet, Esq., assisted by Miss Helena

Moore.

You and your friends are cordially invited to be present.

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Physiological explanation of pain due to functional disturbance of the Muscles of the Colon, by T. Stacey Wilson, F.R.C.P.

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WE understand that the London Chamber of Commerce has decided to hold examinations in Esperanto.

^{*} Stereotyped books, presented by the National Institute for the Blind.

BRAILLE MAGAZINES

Contents of the November Numbers

- Progress,—Raised Print for the Blind—The Lord Mayor—Music Comes (Poem)—A Labour Cabinet— The Lahour Party Memorandum—Garden Notes (November)—Our Prize Competitions—Matters of the Moment—Correspondence—Advertisements— The Little Queen—The Question-Box—Chess—Our Home Page. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 6s. per annum).
- The Literary Journal.— Bessarabia: A Land of Promise—Christianity and Spiritualism—Biography: Its Use and Abuse—Scholarsbips for the Blind—Mrs. "Pat" Campbell—A Dovry for Single Women—The New University of London—The Labourer and his Beer—"Browsing." (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 11s. 6d. per annum).
- School Magazine. Scholarships for the Blind, December, 1922—The Story of Famous Books (III) "The Count of Monte Cristo" (II), by Alexandre Dumas Burma and its Happy People ("My Magazine")—English Pride (from "The Citizen of the World," by Oliver Goldsmith)—Tycho Prahe—Queries—The World of the Fish ("My Magazine")—Biography in Brief: Cardinal Mazarin The Mysteries of Bird Migration, by F. C. Yardley—"How d'you Do?" ("Sunday at Home")—Hydrogen ("My Magazine")—The Child-Musician (Poem), by Austin Dobson—Twenty Words that are not what they seem. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 6s. 6d, per annum).
- Comrades,—The Story of Peter Pan: (1) How Peter Found his Shadow ("Children's Encyclopædia")—Guy Fawkes ("Children's Encyclopædia")—The Boaster (Grade I)—Nature's Wonderful Family, by Ernest A. Bryant—Puzzles—Meals: Ancient and Modern—The Ant and the Cricket (Poem) (Oxford Reading Book)—The Four Princesses (German Folklore). (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum).
- Musical Magazine.—Ballads and Ballad-Singing—Bach's Organ Music—Correspondence—National Institute Concert at Birmingham—Resonance—Supplement: Braille Music Reviews—Insets: Organ, "Andante con Moio," from the Symphony in C Minor, by Beethoven, arranged by W. T. Best—The Sergeant's Song, by G. Holst. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 8s. 6d. per annum).

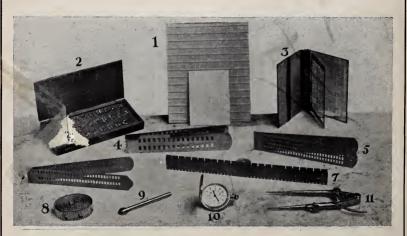
- Massage Journal, being the official organ of the Association of Certificated Blind Masseurs.— Official Notices—News in the Massage World—Notes on the Routine and Electrical Treatment of Flat Foot—The Basis of So-called Neurasthenic States, by T. A. Williams, M.B., C.M.—Some Observations on "Tennis Elbow," by Frank Romer, F.R.C.S.—The Objective Study of Neurosis (II) (concluded), by F. L. Golla, M.B. Oxon., F.R.C.P. London. (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 3s. 6d. per annum).
- The Hampstead Magazine.—Cabin Number Three, by Albert Dorrington—Walking on Millions—Stories by a Great Actress—Battles of the Ants—Thrills at the Polling Station—Wharf-Rat to World Fame—Freedom of the City—Netting Herring Shoals—Best Stories. (1s. 8d. per copy, post free).
- Santa Lucia.—Little Tom Macaulay and the Wonderful Man he Grew to be—Sir Charles Santley—The Great Impersonation, chapters 32-25 (to be continued), by E. Phillips Oppenheim—On an Alligator Farm—The Turtle Trot—What is Sleep? (1s. 8d. per copy, post free).
- The Braille Packet is a monthly magazine containing articles culled from various periodicals. Annual subscription: 7s. 6d., ahroad 11s. 6d.
- Nuggets.—One of the most interesting publications of the National Institute for the Blind is the little weekly Braille paper called Nuggets. This production takes the place of such papers as Answers, Tit-Bits, etc., and contains useful, interesting and informative news paragraphs, as well as a Sporting Page. Subscription rates: Inland, 2d. per copy (3d. post free), 8s. per year (inland and abroad).
- Braille Mail.—Issued every Friday in interpointed Braille. It is a weekly newspaper giving the news of the world day by day, keeping the blind in touch with affairs in general. Subscription: 68, bd. per annum, post free, inland and abroad.
- The Moon Magazine (in Moon Type),—Breaking It—Soot that Destroys Cities—Half an Hour—Guarding the Nation's Wealth—Marvels of Memory—South Sea Stories—Will There be Another Flood? (Annual subscription rate: Inland and abroad, 18s. 6d., post free).

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